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June 16, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 C.F.R. 1.8

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below:

June 16, 2004
Date


Mark T. Garrett

MS: Petitions
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: *U.S. Patent Application 10/813,640 entitled "DEVICES FOR HOLDING PAPER, CARDS, AND WALLETS" – Chip E. Thomson et al.*
Our reference: THMC:015US

Commissioner:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced patent application is:

- (1) Petition Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10(d) to Correct Incorrectly Entered Date-In;
- (2) Declaration of Mark T. Garrett, including 7 Exhibits; and
- (3) A return postcard to acknowledge receipt of these materials. Please date stamp and mail this postcard.

Should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the appropriate fees from Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Account No.: 50-1212/THMC:015US.

Sincerely,



Mark T. Garrett
Reg. No. 44,699

MTG/djm
Encls. As stated

25424787.1 / 10316419

17w
DTC



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Chip E. Thomson *et al.*

Serial No.: 10/813,640

Filed: March 30, 2004

For: METHODS FOR CREATING WOVEN
DEVICES

Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN

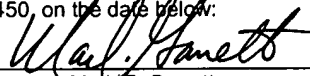
Examiner: UNKNOWN

Atty. Dkt. No.: THMC:015US/MTG

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 C.F.R. § 1.8

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June 16, 2004
Date


Mark T. Garrett

PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10(d) TO CORRECT
INCORRECTLY ENTERED DATE-IN

MS: Petitions
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Commissioner:

Applicants request that the filing date of this patent application be corrected from March 30, 2004 to March 29, 2004, the actual date of deposit of this patent application with the U.S. Post Office. The filing date of March 30, 2004 is based on an incorrectly-entered date-in by the U.S. Post Office of March 30, 2004. According this application a filing date of March 29, 2004 (a Monday) will entitle it to a priority date of March 28, 2003, which is the filing date of U.S. Serial No. 60/458,492, a U.S. provisional patent application to which this

application properly claims priority. *See* Exhibit 1 to Declaration of Mark T. Garrett (“Garrett Decl.”) (enclosed).

The signing attorney of this petition deposited this application, along with a related PCT application and two unrelated patent applications, in a single USPS Express Mail drop box on March 29, 2004 prior to the last pick-up time for that drop box. While this application and the related PCT application improperly received dates-in of March 30, 2004—and consequently filing dates of March 30, 2004—the two unrelated patent applications deposited with them were properly accorded filing dates of March 29, 2004 based on correct dates-in of March 29, 2004. This application should be accorded the same March 29, 2004 filing date that the two unrelated patent applications filed at exactly the same time were accorded.

A. This Petition Complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.10(d)

Rule 10(d) requires compliance with 3 subsections. The following evidence demonstrates compliance with those subsections.

1. Compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.10(d)(1)

Subsection (1) states that the petition be “filed promptly after the person becomes aware that the Office has accorded, or will accord, a filing date based upon an incorrect entry by the USPS[.]” The filing of this petition satisfies this requirement. It is being filed only one day after the signing attorney learned that this application had been accorded a filing date of March 30, 2004. *See* Garrett Decl. at ¶¶ 11-15.

2. Compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.10(d)(2)

Subsection (2) states the petition must show that the “number of the ‘Express Mail’ mailing label was placed on the paper(s) or fee(s) that constitute the correspondence prior to the original mailing by ‘Express Mail’[.]” A copy of this application and the papers filed with it is

attached as Exhibit 1 to Garrett Decl. These documents reflect that the Express Mail mailing number (EV 414834354 US) was placed on (a) the cover page of the application itself, (b) the Utility Patent Application Transmittal, and (c) the return postcard prior to the mailing of these papers.

3. Compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.10(d)(3)

Subsection (3) requires that the petition include “a showing which establishes, to the satisfaction of the Director, that the requested filing date was the date the correspondence was deposited in the ‘Express Mail Post Office to Addressee’ service prior to the last scheduled pickup for that day. Any showing pursuant to this paragraph must be corroborated by evidence from the USPS or that came into being after deposit and within one business day of the deposit of the correspondence in the ‘Express Mail Post Office to Addressee’ service of the USPS.” The corroborating evidence in this case is the customer copies of the Express Mail mailing labels for the two unrelated patent applications that were filed at the same time as this application but accorded the correct filing date (based on a correct date-in) of March 29, 2004.

On March 29, 2004, Applicants’ representative, Mark Garrett, filed four patent applications—including the present application—with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Garrett Decl. at ¶ 3. The four patent applications are:

- U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/813,640 entitled “Devices for Holding Paper, Cards, and Wallets” (the “present application” or “this application”);
- PCT/US2004/009493 entitled “Devices for Holding Paper, Cards, and Wallets” (the “’493 PCT Application”);
- U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/811,775 entitled “Medical Devices and Related Methods” (the “’775 Application”); and
- PCT/US2004/009495 entitled “Medical Devices and Related Methods” (the “’495 PCT Application”).

Garrett Decl. at ¶ 4.

Applicants' representative personally deposited all four of the above-referenced patent applications in an Express Mail drop box at the main post office branch located at 8225 Cross Park Drive, Austin, Texas 78710 on March 29, 2004. Each application was contained in a separate Express Mail envelope, and all four envelopes were deposited together at the same time. Garrett Decl. at ¶ 6.

The last pick-up time for the Express Mail drop box on March 29, 2004 was 7 p.m. *Id.* at ¶ 7. Applicants' representative deposited all four Express Mail envelopes containing the above-referenced patent applications in the Express Mail drop box prior to 7 p.m. *Id.* at ¶ 8.

The '775 Application was accorded a filing date of March 29, 2004. *Id.* at ¶ 9. A copy of the customer copy of the '775 Application's Express Mail mailing label showing a March 29, 2004 deposit date is attached as Exhibit 2 to the Garrett Decl. *Id.* A copy of the '775 Application return postcard showing this March 29, 2004 filing date is attached as Exhibit 3 to the Garrett Decl. *Id.*

Like the '775 Application, the '495 PCT Application also was accorded a filing date of March 29, 2004. *Id.* at ¶ 10. A copy of the customer copy of the '495 PCT Application's Express Mail mailing label showing a March 29, 2004 deposit date is attached as Exhibit 4 to the Garrett Decl. *Id.*

Both the '493 PCT Application—the PCT application that is related to the present application—and the present application were improperly accorded filing dates of March 30, 2004. A copy of the return postcard for the '493 PCT Application is attached as Exhibit 5 to the Garrett Decl. *Id.* at ¶ 11. A copy of the customer copy of the Express Mail mailing label for the present application is attached as Exhibit 6 to the Garrett Decl. *Id.* at ¶ 12.

Based on these facts, the present application should be accorded a filing date of March 29, 2004. The Garrett Declaration shows that the present application was filed on the same day, and at the same time, as two unrelated patent applications that were properly accorded filing dates of March 29, 2004, as supported by both the independent USPS-generated Express Mail customers receipts for both unrelated patent applications and the independent PTO-stamped return postcard for the PCT version of those applications. While the Garrett Declaration, which shows that these unrelated applications were filed on the same day and at the same time as the present application, is admittedly (and obviously) created more than one day after the filing took place, Applicants respectfully submit that it should be given full consideration and effect. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 10.18 (discussing representations made by signature).

The Commissioner is authorized to deduct the appropriate fee for this petition, along with any other fees due in connection with this paper under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21, from Fulbright & Jaworski Deposit Account No.: 50-1212/THMC:015US.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark T. Garrett
Reg. No. 44,699
Attorney for Applicants

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 536-3031
Date: June 16, 2004



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Chip E. Thomson et al.

Serial No.: 10/813,640

Filed: May 30, 2004

For: DEVICES FOR HOLDING PAPER,
CARDS, AND WALLETS

Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN

Examiner: UNKNOWN

Atty. Dkt. No.: THMC:015US/MTG


DECLARATION OF MARK T. GARRETT

I, Mark T. Garrett, declare under penalty of perjury that:

1. I am over 18 years old and have personal knowledge of the facts below.
2. I am an attorney with the Austin, Texas office of Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.
3. On March 29, 2004, I filed four patent applications—including the one referenced above—with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.
4. The four patent applications I filed on March 29, 2004 are:
 - U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/813,640 entitled “Devices for Holding Paper, Cards, and Wallets” (the “present application”);
 - PCT/US2004/009493 entitled “Devices for Holding Paper, Cards, and Wallets” (the “493 PCT Application”);
 - U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/811,775 entitled “Medical Devices and Related Methods” (the “775 Application”); and
 - PCT/US2004/009495 entitled “Medical Devices and Related Methods” (the “495 PCT Application”).
5. A copy of the present application and all papers filed with it is attached as Exhibit 1 to this declaration.
6. I personally deposited all four of the above-referenced patent applications in an Express Mail drop box at the main post office branch located at 8225 Cross Park Drive, Austin, Texas 78710 on March 29, 2004. Each application was contained in a separate Express Mail envelope. I deposited all four envelopes together at the same time.

7. The last pick-up time for the Express Mail drop box on March 29, 2004 was 7 p.m. My assistant confirmed this fact prior to the time I left the office to drive to the post office, and I confirmed this fact by reviewing the pick-up time information on the Express Mail drop box itself prior to placing the four Express Mail envelopes into that drop box at the same time.
8. I deposited all four Express Mail envelopes containing the patent applications in the Express Mail drop box prior to 7 p.m.
9. The '775 Application was accorded a filing date of March 29, 2004, the day all four applications were deposited together as described above. A copy of the customer copy of the Express Mail mailing label showing a March 29, 2004 deposit date for the '775 Application is attached as Exhibit 2 to this declaration. A copy of the '775 Application return postcard showing this March 29, 2004 filing date is attached as Exhibit 3 to this declaration.
10. The '495 PCT Application was also accorded a filing date of March 29, 2004. A copy of the customer copy of the Express Mail mailing label customer receipt showing a March 29, 2004 deposit date for the '495 PCT Application is attached as Exhibit 4 to this declaration.
11. I learned at the end of the day on Tuesday, June 8, 2004 from one of our international patent prosecution paralegals that the '493 PCT Application—the PCT application that is related to the present application—was improperly accorded a filing date of March 30, 2004. A copy of the return postcard (front and back) for the '493 PCT Application, showing it was accorded a filing date of March 30, 2004, is attached as Exhibit 5 to this declaration. The copy of the back of the return postcard shows that the postcard was received by our office on May 22, 2004.
12. After learning that the '493 PCT Application was improperly accorded a March 30, 2004 filing date, I had the file routed to me, and reviewed it on June 15, 2004. I also reviewed the file for the present application on June 15, 2004, and learned that the present application was also improperly accorded a filing date of March 30, 2004. A copy of the customer copy of the Express Mail mailing label customer receipt improperly showing a March 30, 2004 deposit date for the present application is attached as Exhibit 6 to this declaration.
13. I learned from my assistant on or about April 7, 2004 that the customer copies of the Express Mail mailing labels that we received from the USPS for the present application and the '493 PCT Application showed a date-in of March 30, 2004. I also learned from my assistant at about the same time or slightly later that the customer copy of the Express Mail mailing label for at least the '775 Application showed a date-in of March 29, 2004.

14. At the time I learned this date-in information about at least three of the four applications, I decided that if we received either a postcard or a filing receipt indicating that the present application was improperly accorded a filing date of March 30, 2004, I would address the issue. I recall believing that there was a chance that the Office would still accord the present application the correct filing date of March 29, 2004 because March 29, 2004 was the date appearing on the front page of the application, the Utility Patent Application Transmittal, and the postcard.
15. It is not clear when our office received the return postcard for the present application, which is attached as Exhibit 7 to this declaration. Although the back side has a stamp of June 15, 2004 on it, that date was incorrectly placed there in response to my question about when we received the postcard. We recently hired a new individual to handle the docketing work associated with incoming correspondence received from the Patent Office, and I believe this may be part of the reason why it is not clear when we received the present application's return postcard. On May 13, 2004, I was told by one of the individuals in our domestic patent prosecution support group that the postcard had not yet been received. We have not yet received a filing receipt for the present application.
16. All statements made of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued on it.

Signed: 

Dated: June 16, 2004

Name: Mark T. Garrett

Reg. No.: 44,699

EXHIBIT 1

Please indicate receipt of the below-identified paper:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Application For:	Utility	Priority Date: March 28, 2003
<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign priority already claimed		
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation	<input type="checkbox"/> CIP	<input type="checkbox"/> Divisional CPA <input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification: 45 Pages		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawings: 36 Sheets
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Office Action Dated:		<input type="checkbox"/> Final Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Utility Transmittal and postcard		
<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> Cert. of Timely Mailing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exp. Mail: EV 414834354 US

IDENTIFICATION OF APPLICATION

Serial No.:	Unknown
Title:	Devices for Holding Paper, Cards, and Wallets
Applicant:	Chip E. Thomson et al.
Client:	Blue Chip Promotions, L.L.C.
Mailed:	3/29/04
Filed:	
Attorney:	MTG
F&J File No.:	THMC:015US
Due Date:	

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	THMC:015US
First Inventor	Chip E. Thomson
Title	Devices for Holding Paper, Cards, and Wallets
Express Mail Label No.	EV 414834354 US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO:

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

1. ☐ Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☐ Applicant claims small entity status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 45]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the invention
 - Cross Reference to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
4. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 36]
5. Oath or Declaration [Total Sheets]
 - a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed)
 - i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) name in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
6. ☐ Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

7. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. ☐ Computer Readable Form (CRF)
 - b. Specification Sequence Listing on:
 - i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
 - ii. ☐ Paper
 - c. ☐ Statements verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney
(when there is an assignee)
11. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. ☐ Information Disclosure ☐ Copies of IDS
Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Citations
13. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
14. ☐ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)
16. ☐ Nonpublication Request under 35 U.S.C. 122
(b)(2)(B)(i). Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or its equivalent.
17. ☒ Other: postcard.....

18. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in the first sentence of the specification following the title, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.:

Prior application information:


Examiner _____

Art Unit: _____

For CONTINUATION OF DIVISIONAL APPS only; The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The Incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

19. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

☒ Customer Number: 32425 OR ☐ Correspondence address below

Name	FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.				
Address	600 Congress Ave., Ste. 2400				
City	Austin	State	TX	Zip Code	78701
Country	U.S.A.	Telephone	512-474-5201	Fax	512-536-4598
Name (Print/Type)	Mark T. Garrett	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	44,699		
Signature				Date	March 29, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.53(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

PATENT
THMC:015US

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION
for
DEVICES FOR HOLDING PAPER, CARDS, AND WALLETS

by
Chip E. Thomson
Glen E. Clifton
Michael C. Lah
Lauren J. Sandham
and
Joseph B. Wieck

<p>EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL NUMBER EV 414834354 US DATE OF DEPOSIT March 29, 2004</p>

1 **CROSS-REFERENCE(S) TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)**

2 This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No.
3 60/458,492, filed March 28, 2003, the entire contents of which are expressly incorporated
4 by reference.

5 **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

6 **1. Field of the Invention**

7 The present invention relates generally to devices that hold paper, cards, and/or a
8 wallet.

9 **2. Description of Related Art**

10 Devices that hold money, whether in the form of paper currency or credit cards,
11 come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Examples of such devices, sometimes referred to
12 as money clips, are found in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,327,749, 5,249,437, and 4,675,953.
13 Devices known as binder clips, which are typically used in an office setting for keeping
14 documents together in the absence of a staple, have been used as money clips. This is
15 true of both binder clips without ornamentation of any kind, such as those depicted in
16 U.S. Patent Nos. 1,150,073 and 1,139,627, and with ornamentation as shown in U.S.
17 Patent No. 6,327,749. Other binder clips are disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. D372,498 and
18 D321,210.

19 **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

20 The present invention includes devices suited to holding paper (such as currency,
21 notes, receipts, business cards or the like), cards (such as credit cards or the like), and/or
22 wallets. The devices may be used to advertise corporate or other types of logos. The

1 present devices may be referred to as money clips, although they are well-suited to
2 holding things other than money.

3 In one embodiment, the invention is a device that comprises a clip having two
4 ends and a leverage bump; and an arm pivotally coupled to each end. One of the arms
5 contacts the leverage bump when the clip is opened. In one version of this embodiment,
6 the leverage bump includes two outer portions and a middle portion, and the two outer
7 portions protrude more outwardly from the clip than the middle portion. In another
8 version of this embodiment, the clip has two leverage bumps, and each arm contacts a
9 leverage bump when the clip is opened. In another version of this embodiment, each
10 leverage bump includes two outer portions and a middle portion, and the two outer
11 portions of each leverage bump protrude more outwardly from the clip than the middle
12 portion. In another version of this embodiment, each arm includes two hinge elements
13 separated by two slots and a middle segment, and each hinge element has an elongated
14 segment and a hinge segment. In another version of this embodiment, each end of the
15 clip includes an arm-retaining portion, and the hinge segments of a given arm fit at least
16 partially within the arm-retaining portion of an end of the clip. In another version of this
17 embodiment, the hinge elements of each arm are longer than the middle segment of that
18 arm. In another version of this embodiment, an edge of the middle segment of each arm
19 is positioned near the arm-retaining portion of an end of the clip. In another version of
20 this embodiment, each arm has a widest portion and the clip has a widest portion, and the
21 widest portions of the arms and the clip have substantially the same width. In another
22 version of this embodiment, the widest portion of each arm is positioned near the widest
23 portion of the clip. In another version of this embodiment, each arm includes an

1 indention. In another version of this embodiment, each arm includes an insert in the
2 indention. In another version of this embodiment, the device also includes a wallet
3 configured to be held by the clip.

4 In another embodiment, the invention is a device that includes a clip having a
5 receiving portion and a holding portion, the receiving portion including an arch, and the
6 holding portion including two ends; and an arm pivotally coupled to each end. In one
7 version of this embodiment, the clip has two leverage bumps, and each arm contacts a
8 leverage bump when the clip is opened. In another version of this embodiment, each arm
9 includes two hinge elements separated by two slots and a middle segment, and each hinge
10 element has an elongated segment and a hinge segment. In another version of this
11 embodiment, each end of the clip includes an arm-retaining portion, and the hinge
12 segments of a given arm fit at least partially within the arm-retaining portion of an end of
13 the clip. In another version of this embodiment, each arm has a widest portion and the
14 clip has a widest portion, and the widest portions of the arms and the clip have
15 substantially the same width. In another version of this embodiment, the widest portion
16 of each arm is positioned near the widest portion of the clip. In another version of this
17 embodiment, the device also includes a wallet configured to be held by the clip.

18 In another embodiment, the invention is a device that has a spring having an
19 arcuate-shaped portion at one end and two arm-retaining portions; and an arm pivotally
20 coupled to each arm-retaining portion. In one version of this embodiment, the spring also
21 has a leverage bump that is contacted by one of the arms when the spring is opened. In
22 another version of this embodiment, the spring also has two leverage bumps, and each
23 arm contacts a leverage bump when the spring is opened. In another version of this

embodiment, the leverage bump includes two outer portions and a middle portion, and the two outer portions protrude more outwardly from the spring than the middle portion. In another version of this embodiment, each leverage bump includes two outer portions and a middle portion, and the two outer portions of each leverage bump protrude more outwardly from the spring than the middle portion. In another version of this embodiment, each arm includes two hinge elements separated by two slots and a middle segment, and each hinge element has an elongated segment and a hinge segment. In another version of this embodiment, the hinge segments of a given arm fit at least partially within an arm-retaining portion of the spring. In another version of this embodiment, the hinge elements of each arm are longer than the middle segment of that arm. In another version of this embodiment, an edge of the middle segment of each arm is positioned near an arm-retaining portion of the spring. In another version of this embodiment, each arm has a widest portion and the spring has a widest portion, and the widest portions of the arms and the spring have substantially the same width. In another version of this embodiment, the widest portion of each arm is positioned near the widest portion of the spring. In another version of this embodiment, each arm includes an indentation. In another version of this embodiment, each arm includes an insert in the indentation. In another version of this embodiment, the device also includes a wallet configured to be held by the spring.

In another embodiment, the invention is a device that includes a clip having an outer surface; an outer element contacting the outer surface of the clip, the outer element having two ends; and an arm pivotally coupled to each end. In one version of this embodiment, one arm includes a protrusion, and the protrusion contacts the outer element

1 when the clip is opened. In another version of this embodiment, the outer element
2 includes two sides that are hinged together. In another version of this embodiment, the
3 two sides are hinged together with a pin. In another version of this embodiment, each side
4 includes an outer surface and a recessed portion in the outer surface. In another version of
5 this embodiment, each arm includes a protrusion. In another version of this embodiment,
6 each arm is pivotally coupled to an end with a pin. In another version of this embodiment,
7 each arm includes a coupling portion that contacts the pin coupling that arm to an end. In
8 another version of this embodiment, the outer element includes an inner surface that
9 includes a recessed portion, and the clip contacts the recessed portion of the inner surface.
10 In another version of this embodiment, where the outer element includes two sides that
11 are coupled, each side has an inner surface, the inner surfaces of the sides together
12 comprise the inner surface of the outer element, the inner surfaces of the two sides each
13 include a recessed portion that is part of the recessed portion of the inner surface of the
14 outer element, and the clip contacts the recessed portion of the inner surface of each of
15 the two sides. In another version of this embodiment, the recessed portion of the inner
16 surface of each side is bordered by two shoulder portions. In another version of this
17 embodiment, each shoulder portion includes a groove into which a portion of the clip fits.
18 In another version of this embodiment, each arm includes a coupling portion that contacts
19 a pin hinging the arm to an end. In another version of this embodiment, each end includes
20 a coupling portion that contacts the pin hinging an arm to the end. In another version of
21 this embodiment, the clip includes a back portion and two retainer portions, each retainer
22 portion having an upper retainer element and a lower retainer element, the upper and
23 lower retainer elements of each retainer portion being separated by a holding element that

1 extends farther from the back portion than either retainer element. In another version of
2 this embodiment, the device includes a wallet configured to be held by the clip.

3 In another embodiment, the invention is a device that includes a clip; an outer
4 element having a recess and two ends, a portion of the clip contacting a portion of the
5 recess; and an arm pivotally coupled to each end with a pin. In one version of this
6 embodiment, each arm includes a protrusion, and both protrusions contact the outer
7 element when the clip is opened. In another version of this embodiment, the outer
8 element includes an outer surface and two recessed portions in the outer surface. In
9 another version of this embodiment, the device also includes a wallet configured to be
10 held by the clip.

11 In another embodiment, the invention is a device that includes a clip having an
12 outer surface; an outer element contacting the outer surface of the clip, the outer element
13 having two sides, each side having two elongated elements defining between them an arm
14 recess; and an arm pivotally coupled to each side of the outer element and positioned in
15 an arm recess. In one version of this embodiment, one arm includes a leverage bump, and
16 the leverage bump contacts the outer element when the clip is opened. In another version
17 of this embodiment, each arm includes a leverage bump, and each leverage bump
18 contacts the outer element when the clip is opened. In another version of this
19 embodiment, one arm includes a leverage bump, one side includes a leverage bump, and
20 the leverage bump of the arm contacts the leverage bump of the side when the clip is
21 opened. In another version of this embodiment, each arm includes a leverage bump, each
22 side includes a leverage bump, and the leverage bump of each arm contacts the leverage

1 bump of a side when the clip is opened. In another version of this embodiment, the device
2 also includes a wallet configured to be held by the clip.

3 In another embodiment, the invention is a device that includes a clip having two
4 hinges positioned beside each other, each hinge having two outer open ends; and an arm
5 pivotally coupled to each hinge, each arm including two hinge segments that are
6 positioned at least partially within the two outer open ends of each hinge, one of the
7 hinge segments having a non-circular cross-sectional profile. The device is sized to hold
8 one or more of paper, cards and a wallet. In one version of this embodiment, the clip has
9 a leverage bump positioned such that one of the arms contacts the leverage bump when
10 the clip is opened. In another version of this embodiment, each arm has an elongated
11 segment extending from the hinge segment of that arm; and, when the clip is opened, an
12 elongated segment of a given arm contacts the clip before the given arm contacts the
13 leverage bump. In another version of this embodiment, the clip has two leverage bumps,
14 and each arm contacts a leverage bump when the clip is opened. In another version of this
15 embodiment, the elongated segments of a given arm are separated by two slots and a
16 middle segment. In another version of this embodiment, each arm has a hinge element
17 that includes one of the elongated segments and one of the hinge segments, and the hinge
18 element of a given arm is longer than the middle segment of the given arm. In another
19 version of this embodiment, an edge of the middle segment of each arm is positioned near
20 a hinge of the clip. In another version of this embodiment, each arm has a widest portion
21 and the clip having a widest portion, and the widest portions of the arms and the clip have
22 substantially the same width. In another version of this embodiment, the widest portion of
23 each arm is positioned near the widest portion of the clip. In another version of this

embodiment, each arm includes an indentation. In another version of this embodiment, the indentation of one of the arms protrudes outwardly so as to be closer to the leverage bump of the clip than any other portion of that arm when that arm is bent back and in contact with the leverage bump. In another version of this embodiment, the device also includes a wallet configured to be held by the clip.

In another embodiment, the invention is a device that includes a clip that is not substantially triangular in shape when in an empty closed position, the clip having two ends; and an arm pivotally coupled to each end. The device is sized to hold one or more of paper, cards and a wallet. In one version of this embodiment, each end has a hinge to which an arm is pivotally coupled. In another version of this embodiment, each arm includes two hinge segments that are positioned at least partially within the hinge to which that arm is pivotally coupled, and one of the hinge segments has a non-circular cross-sectional profile. In another version of this embodiment, the clip has a leverage bump positioned such that one of the arms contacts the leverage bump when the clip is opened. In another version of this embodiment, each arm has an elongated segment extending from the hinge segment of that arm; and, when the clip is opened, an elongated segment of a given arm contacts the clip before the given arm contacts the leverage bump. In another version of this embodiment, the clip has two leverage bumps, and each arm contacts a leverage bump when the clip is opened. In another version of this embodiment, the elongated segments of a given arm are separated by two slots and a middle segment. In another version of this embodiment, each arm has a hinge element that includes one of the elongated segments and one of the hinge segments, and the hinge element of a given arm are longer than the middle segment of the given arm. In another

1 version of this embodiment, an edge of the middle segment of each arm is positioned near
2 a hinge of the clip. In another version of this embodiment, each arm has a widest portion
3 and the clip having a widest portion, and the widest portions of the arms and the clip have
4 substantially the same width. In another version of this embodiment, the widest portion of
5 each arm is positioned near the widest portion of the clip. In another version of this
6 embodiment, each arm includes an indentation. In another version of this embodiment, the
7 indentation of one of the arms protrudes outwardly so as to be closer to the leverage bump
8 of the clip than any other portion of that arm when that arm is bent back and in contact
9 with the leverage bump. In another version of this embodiment, the device also includes a
10 wallet configured to be held by the clip. In another version of this embodiment, each arm
11 is a non-wire frame arm.

12 In another embodiment, the invention is a device that includes a clip that has an
13 open position that includes two substantially parallel sides connected by an arch, the clip
14 also having two ends; and an arm pivotally coupled to each end. The device is sized to
15 hold one or more of paper, cards and a wallet. In one version of this embodiment, each
16 arm is a non-wire frame arm. In another version of this embodiment, each end has a hinge
17 to which an arm is pivotally coupled. In another version of this embodiment, each arm
18 includes two hinge segments that are positioned at least partially within the hinge to
19 which that arm is pivotally coupled, and one of the hinge segments having a non-circular
20 cross-sectional profile. In another version of this embodiment, the clip has a leverage
21 bump positioned such that one of the arms contacts the leverage bump when the clip is
22 opened. In another version of this embodiment, each arm has an elongated segment
23 extending from the hinge segment of that arm; and, when the clip is opened, an elongated

1 segment of a given arm contacts the clip before the given arm contacts the leverage
2 bump. In another version of this embodiment, the clip has two leverage bumps, and each
3 arm contacts a leverage bump when the clip is opened. In another version of this
4 embodiment, the elongated segments of a given arm are separated by two slots and a
5 middle segment. In another version of this embodiment, each arm has a hinge element
6 that includes one of the elongated segments and one of the hinge segments, and the hinge
7 element of a given arm are longer than the middle segment of the given arm. In another
8 version of this embodiment, an edge of the middle segment of each arm is positioned near
9 a hinge of the clip. In another version of this embodiment, each arm has a widest portion
10 and the clip having a widest portion, and the widest portions of the arms and the clip have
11 substantially the same width. In another version of this embodiment, the widest portion of
12 each arm is positioned near the widest portion of the clip. In another version of this
13 embodiment, each arm includes an indentation. In another version of this embodiment, the
14 indentation of one of the arms protrudes outwardly so as to be closer to the leverage bump
15 of the clip than any other portion of that arm when that arm is bent back and in contact
16 with the leverage bump. In another version of this embodiment, the device also includes a
17 wallet configured to be held by the clip.

18 In another embodiment, the invention is a device that includes a clip having two
19 arm-retaining portions that are positioned beside each other when the clip is in an empty
20 closed position; and a non-wire frame arm pivotally coupled to each arm-retaining
21 portion. Each arm-retaining portion and the non-wire frame arm pivotally coupled to that
22 arm-retaining portion are configured such that the non-wire frame arms snap into position
23 as they are moved from a bent-back position to a closed position. The device is sized to

1 hold one or more of paper, cards and a wallet. In one version of this embodiment, the clip
2 has an open position that includes two substantially parallel sides connected by an arch,
3 and the arm-retaining portions of the clip define two ends of the clip. In another version
4 of this embodiment, each arm includes two hinge segments that are positioned at least
5 partially within the arm-retaining portion to which that arm is pivotally coupled, and one
6 of the hinge segments has a non-circular cross-sectional profile. In another version of this
7 embodiment, the clip has a leverage bump positioned such that one of the arms contacts
8 the leverage bump when the clip is opened. In another version of this embodiment, each
9 arm has an elongated segment extending from the hinge segment of that arm; and, when
10 the clip is opened, an elongated segment of a given arm contacts the clip before the given
11 arm contacts the leverage bump. In another version of this embodiment, the clip has two
12 leverage bumps, and each arm contacts a leverage bump when the clip is opened. In
13 another version of this embodiment, the elongated segments of a given arm are separated
14 by two slots and a middle segment. In another version of this embodiment, each arm has
15 a hinge element that includes one of the elongated segments and one of the hinge
16 segments, and the hinge element of a given arm are longer than the middle segment of the
17 given arm. In another version of this embodiment, an edge of the middle segment of each
18 arm is positioned near a hinge of the clip. In another version of this embodiment, each
19 arm has a widest portion and the clip having a widest portion, and the widest portions of
20 the arms and the clip have substantially the same width. In another version of this
21 embodiment, the widest portion of each arm is positioned near the widest portion of the
22 clip. In another version of this embodiment, each arm includes an indentation. In another
23 version of this embodiment, the indentation of one of the arms protrudes outwardly so as to

1 be closer to the leverage bump of the clip than any other portion of that arm when that
2 arm is bent back and in contact with the leverage bump. In another version of this
3 embodiment, the device also includes a wallet configured to be held by the clip.

4 In another embodiment, the invention is a device that includes a clip that has (a) a
5 main portion, (b) two hinges that define a first end, and (c) a second end; and an arm
6 pivotally coupled to each hinge. The clip and arms are configured such that when force
7 is applied to begin opening the clip, contact between a given arm and the main portion of
8 the clip occurs at a location that is closer to the first end than to the second end, and the
9 clip will begin to open before any contact between the given arm and the main portion of
10 the clip occurs at a second location that is closer to the second end than the first end. The
11 device is sized to hold one or more of paper, cards and a wallet. In one version of this
12 embodiment, each arm is a non-wire frame arm. In another version of this embodiment,
13 each arm includes two hinge segments that are positioned at least partially within the
14 hinge to which that arm is pivotally coupled, and one of the hinge segments has a non-
15 circular cross-sectional profile. In another version of this embodiment, the clip has a
16 leverage bump positioned such that one of the arms contacts the leverage bump when the
17 clip is opened. In another version of this embodiment, each arm has an elongated segment
18 extending from the hinge segment of that arm; and, when the clip is opened, an elongated
19 segment of a given arm contacts the clip before the given arm contacts the leverage
20 bump. In another version of this embodiment, the clip has two leverage bumps, and each
21 arm contacts a leverage bump when the clip is opened. In another version of this
22 embodiment, the elongated segments of a given arm are separated by two slots and a
23 middle segment. In another version of this embodiment, each arm has a hinge element

1 that includes one of the elongated segments and one of the hinge segments, and the hinge
2 element of a given arm are longer than the middle segment of the given arm. In another
3 version of this embodiment, an edge of the middle segment of each arm is positioned near
4 a hinge of the clip. In another version of this embodiment, each arm has a widest portion
5 and the clip having a widest portion, and the widest portions of the arms and the clip have
6 substantially the same width. In another version of this embodiment, the widest portion of
7 each arm is positioned near the widest portion of the clip. In another version of this
8 embodiment, each arm includes an indentation. In another version of this embodiment, the
9 indentation of one of the arms protrudes outwardly so as to be closer to the leverage bump
10 of the clip than any other portion of that arm when that arm is bent back and in contact
11 with the leverage bump. In another version of this embodiment, the device also includes a
12 wallet configured to be held by the clip.

13 In another embodiment, the invention is a device that includes a clip having two
14 ends; and an arm pivotally coupled to each end, each arm having a length and being
15 bowed along the length. The device is sized to hold one or more of paper, cards and a
16 wallet. In one version of this embodiment, each arm is a non-wire frame arm. In another
17 version of this embodiment, each end has a hinge to which an arm is pivotally coupled. In
18 another version of this embodiment, each arm includes two hinge segments that are
19 positioned at least partially within the hinge to which that arm is pivotally coupled, and
20 one of the hinge segments having a non-circular cross-sectional profile. In another
21 version of this embodiment, the clip has a leverage bump positioned such that one of the
22 arms contacts the leverage bump when the clip is opened. In another version of this
23 embodiment, each arm has an elongated segment extending from the hinge segment of

1 that arm; and, when the clip is opened, an elongated segment of a given arm contacts the
2 clip before the given arm contacts the leverage bump. In another version of this
3 embodiment, the clip has two leverage bumps, and each arm contacts a leverage bump
4 when the clip is opened. In another version of this embodiment, the elongated segments
5 of a given arm are separated by two slots and a middle segment. In another version of this
6 embodiment, each arm has a hinge element that includes one of the elongated segments
7 and one of the hinge segments, and the hinge element of a given arm are longer than the
8 middle segment of the given arm. In another version of this embodiment, an edge of the
9 middle segment of each arm is positioned near a hinge of the clip. In another version of
10 this embodiment, each arm has a widest portion and the clip having a widest portion, and
11 the widest portions of the arms and the clip have substantially the same width. In another
12 version of this embodiment, the widest portion of each arm is positioned near the widest
13 portion of the clip. In another version of this embodiment, each arm includes an
14 indentation. In another version of this embodiment, the indentation of one of the arms
15 protrudes outwardly so as to be closer to the leverage bump of the clip than any other
16 portion of that arm when that arm is bent back and in contact with the leverage bump. In
17 another version of this embodiment, the device also includes a wallet configured to be
18 held by the clip.

19 Other embodiments of the present devices are described below.

20 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

21 The following drawings demonstrate certain aspects of the present devices. They
22 illustrate by way of example and not limitation. The embodiments of the present devices
23 depicted in the drawings are to scale unless otherwise noted. The paper positioned

1 around the wallets depicted in certain of the present figures is a generic representation of
2 U.S. dollars that is not to scale.

3 FIG. 1 is a perspective view of one of the present devices.

4 FIG. 2 is a side view of the device shown in FIG. 1.

5 FIG. 3 is a front view of the device shown in FIG. 1.

6 FIG. 4 is a back view of the device shown in FIG. 1.

7 FIG. 5 is a top view of the device shown in FIG. 1.

8 FIG. 6 is a side view of an arm of the device shown in FIG. 1.

9 FIG. 7 is an exploded view of the elements of the device shown in FIG. 1, viewed
10 in perspective.

11 FIG. 8 is a perspective view of the device shown in FIG. 1, where the arms of the
12 device are bent back, but the clip of the device is not open.

13 FIG. 9 is a top view of the device shown in FIG. 1, depicting that device in an
14 opened position.

15 FIG. 10 is a top view of the device shown in FIG. 1, showing that the device can
16 include a wallet.

17 FIG. 11 is a side view of another of the present devices.

18 FIG. 12 is a top view of the device shown in FIG. 11.

19 FIG. 13 is a side view of an arm of the device shown in FIG. 11.

20 FIG. 14 is a side view of another of the present devices.

1 FIG. 15 is a top view of the device shown in FIG. 14.

2 FIG. 16 is a side view of an arm of the device shown in FIG. 14.

3 FIG. 17 is a perspective view of another of the present devices.

4 FIG. 18 is a side view of the device shown in FIG. 17.

5 FIG. 19 is a front view of the device shown in FIG. 17.

6 FIG. 20 is a back view of the device shown in FIG. 17.

7 FIG. 21 is a top view of the device shown in FIG. 17.

8 FIG. 22 is a cross sectional view of the device shown in FIG. 17, taken along
9 cross-sectional line 18-18 shown in FIG. 18.

10 FIG. 23 is a view of the inter surface of one of the sides of the outer element of
11 the device in FIG. 17.

12 FIG. 24 is a perspective view of the side shown in FIG. 23.

13 FIG. 25 is an exploded view of the elements of the device shown in FIG. 17,
14 viewed in perspective.

15 FIG. 26 is a top view of the device shown in FIG. 17, depicting that device in an
16 opened position around a wallet.

17 FIG. 27A is a side view of the device shown in FIG. 17 in a closed position
18 around a wallet and lacking the indentation shown in FIG. 17.

19 FIG. 27B is a cross-sectional view of the device depicted in FIG. 27A, taken
20 along cross-sectional line 27A-27A in FIG. 27A.

1 FIG. 27C is a view of the detail circled in FIG. 27B.

2 FIGS. 28A-28O include a series of side, cross-sectional and detail views showing
3 different positions of the arms of the device shown in FIG. 17 relative to holding
4 elements of the clip of that device. Specifically, FIG. 28B is a cross-sectional view taken
5 along cross-sectional line 28A-28A in FIG. 28A; FIG. 28C is a view of the detail circled
6 in FIG. 28B; FIG. 28E is a cross-sectional view taken along cross-sectional line 28D-28D
7 in FIG. 28D; FIG. 28F is a view of the detail circled in FIG. 28E; FIG. 28H is a cross-
8 sectional view taken along cross-sectional line 28G-28G in FIG. 28G; FIG. 28I is a view
9 of the detail circled in FIG. 28H; FIG. 28K is a cross-sectional view taken along cross-
10 sectional line 28J-28J in FIG. 28J; FIG. 28L is a view of the detail circled in FIG. 28K;
11 FIG. 28N is a cross-sectional view taken along cross-sectional line 28M-28 in FIG. 28M;
12 and FIG. 28O is a view of the detail circled in FIG. 28N.

13 FIG. 29 is a perspective view of another of the present devices.

14 FIG. 30 is a side view of the device depicted in FIG. 29.

15 FIG. 31 is a front view of the device depicted in FIG. 29.

16 FIG. 32 is a back view of the device depicted in FIG. 29.

17 FIG. 33 is a top view of the device depicted in FIG. 29.

18 FIG. 34 is a top view of the device depicted in FIG. 29, showing that the device
19 may include a wallet.

20 FIG. 35 is a top view showing the arms of the device depicted in FIG. 29 folded
21 back.

1 FIG. 36 is an exploded view of the elements of another version of the device
2 depicted in FIG. 29.

3 FIGS. 37-42 are inside (side), outside (side), end, top, outside perspective, and
4 inside perspective views, respectively, of a version of one of the present arms that has an
5 outwardly protruding indentation.

6 FIGS. 43-48 are inside (side), outside (side), end, top, outside perspective, and
7 inside perspective views, respectively, of another version of one of the present arms that
8 has an outwardly protruding indentation.

9 FIGS. 49-50 are top and detail views, respectively, showing a configuration of
10 one embodiment of one of the present clips and the present arms configured such that the
11 arms contact the clip early in the opening process for increased leverage, in contrast to
12 the manner in which traditional binder clips work.

13 FIGS. 51-52 are top and detail views, respectively, showing the embodiment of
14 device depicted in FIGS. 49 and 50 is an open position resulting from the benefit of that
15 increased leverage.

16 FIGS. 53-56 are side, end and detail views showing one embodiment of a suitable
17 shape for certain of the present hinges, especially the shape of the portion of hinge that
18 defines its outer open ends. Such shape furthers the likelihood that the arms that are
19 coupled to such hinges will snap into place as they are closed.

20 FIGS. 57A-57D are a series of views showing one of the present hinges and the
21 position—during the process of closing the arms—of a cross-sectionally depicted portion

1 of one of the present hinge segments that is positioned at least partially within that hinge
2 (e.g., within an outer open end of the same).

3 FIG. 58 is a perspective view of one of the present devices that has bowed arms.

4 FIG. 59 is a side view of the device shown in FIG. 58.

5 FIG. 60 is a front view of the device shown in FIG. 58.

6 FIG. 61 is a rear perspective view of the device shown in FIG. 58.

7 FIG. 62 is a top view of the device shown in FIG. 58.

8 **DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS**

9 The terms “comprise” (and any form of comprise, such as “comprises” and
10 “comprising”), “have” (and any form of have, such as “has” and “having”), and “include”
11 (and any form of include, such as “includes” and “including”) are open-ended linking
12 verbs. Thus, a device “comprising” a clip having two ends and a leverage bump, and an
13 arm coupled to each end is a device that possesses such a clip and such arms, but is not
14 limited to possessing those items. For example, the device may also possess a wallet
15 configured to be held by the clip. Likewise, a clip “having” two ends and a leverage
16 bump possesses those features, but is not excluded from possessing additional features
17 such as an additional leverage bump.

18 The terms “a” and “an” mean one or more than one. The term “another” means at
19 least a second or more.

20 Those of skill in the art will appreciate that in the detailed description below,
21 certain well known manufacturing and assembly techniques have been omitted so that the
22 present devices are not obscured in unnecessary detail. Similarly, some features of the

1 some of the devices have not been labeled in all of the drawings, so that the drawings are
2 not unnecessarily cluttered. Any dimensions provided in English units may be translated
3 to the corresponding metric unit by rounding to the nearest millimeter.

4 FIGS. 1-9 show different views of one of the present devices. FIG. 10 shows that
5 the device depicted in FIGS. 1-9 may include a wallet. Turning first to FIG. 1, device
6 100 includes a clip 10 having two ends 14 and a leverage bump 16. More specifically,
7 clip 10 shown in FIG. 1 includes two leverage bumps 16. Device 100 also includes an
8 arm 20 that is pivotally coupled to each end 14. As will be shown in another figure and
9 described below, one of the arms of device 100 contacts a leverage bump when the clip is
10 opened. More specifically, in the embodiment shown in FIG. 1, each arm 20 will contact
11 a leverage bump 16 when clip 10 is opened. Arms 20—as well as arms 50, 80, 430, and
12 530—are examples of non-wire frame arms. In contrast, the following patents disclose
13 only arms with wire frames: U.S. Patents D321,209; D321,210; 1,139,627; 1,150,073;
14 4,332,060; 4,402,530; 4,532,680; 4,761,862; 5,249,336 (shows wire frame covered with a
15 sleeve); 5,533,236; 5,896,624; and 6,327,749. Clip 10 may be characterized as a clip that
16 is not substantially triangular in shape when in an empty (nothing in it) closed position, as
17 shown for example in FIGS. 1 and 5. In contrast, the following patents and application
18 disclose only clips that are substantially triangular in shape when in an empty closed
19 position: U.S. Patents D321,209; D321,210; D372,498; D485,780; 1,139,627; 1,150,073;
20 4,332,060; 4,402,530; 4,532,680; 4,761,862; 5,249,336; 5,533,236; 5,896,624; 6,327,749;
21 and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/060,942 filed January 30, 2002 in the name of
22 Chip Thomson.

Clip 10 of device 100 in FIGS. 1-10, as well as clip 10 in devices 200 and 300 depicted in FIGS. 11-16, may also be referred to in this document (including the claims) as a spring. The leverage bump that are part of the present clips may be any suitable shape configured to contact the present arms when those clips are opened. The present leverage bumps may be formed by placing extra material on a clip that has already been created and attaching that material to the clip in any suitable fashion, such as through the use of an adhesive, heat, pressure, soldering, welding, or any combination of these. Alternatively, the present leverage bumps may be created with the clips as the clips are formed. For example, the leverage bumps shown throughout FIGS. 1-16 may be stamped out such that they protrude outwardly from the outside of the clips and have a corresponding indentation on the inside of the clips.

A version of a suitable leverage bump for use with the present clips is shown generally in FIGS. 1-16. Each leverage bump 16 includes two outer portions 17 and a middle portion 19. As shown in the figures, and most clearly in, for example, FIG. 3, outer portions 17 protrude more outwardly from clip 10 than does middle portion 19. Suitable exemplary thicknesses for the material that may be used to make certain embodiments of clip 10 include spring steel having a thickness of 0.025 inches to 0.018 inches.

In the embodiment of the present devices shown in FIGS. 1-10, arms 20 each include an indentation 32 and an insert 34 contacting, or otherwise positioned in, the indentation. The shape of the indentation may be created to match the shape of the insert. However, while both may have flat surfaces to facilitate attachment of the two, indentation 32 may have a slightly different shape than an insert 34 placed in it, as shown in these

1 figures. Suitable exemplary thicknesses for the material that may be used to make certain
2 embodiments of clip 10 include 0.048 inches to 0.062 inches.

3 FIG. 2 is a side of the device shown in FIG. 1. FIG. 2 shows that each arm 20
4 includes two hinge elements 22 that are separated by two slots 24 and a middle
5 segment 26. As shown in FIGS. 6 and 7, each hinge element 22 has an elongated
6 segment 25 and a hinge segment 27. As shown in FIGS. 2, 5, 7 and 8, each end 14 of clip
7 10 includes an arm-retaining portion 18. These portions may also be characterized as
8 hinges 18. The arm-retaining portions 18 of clip 10 are positioned beside each when clip
9 10 is in an empty closed position, as it is in FIGS. 1 and 5. The arm-retaining portions
10 are cylindrical in shape and are unbroken along their lengths, which respectively span
11 substantially the entire width of clip 10. The term "substantially" is defined as at least
12 close to (and can include) a given value or state (preferably within 10% of, more
13 preferably within 1% of, and most preferably within 0.1% of). A suitable diameter for
14 the cylinder shape of one embodiment of hinge 18 is 0.085 inches inner diameter. Each
15 arm-retaining portion, or hinge, also has two outer open ends. As shown schematically in
16 FIG. 7, the hinge segments 27 of a given arm 20 are designed to be placed in one of the
17 two arm-retaining portions of clip 10. As a result of that placement, and as shown in
18 FIGS. 1, 2, and 8, the hinge segments are located, or positioned, at least partially within
19 the arm-retaining portion in which they are placed (the hinge segments are not labeled in
20 these figures). The result of that placement may also be characterized as positioning the
21 hinge segments at least partially within the two outer open ends of each hinge. Those
22 hinge segments may have a non-circular cross-sectional profile, as does hinge segment 57
23 shown in FIGS. 57A-57D.

FIGS. 3 and 4 show what device 100 looks like from the front and back, respectively. FIG. 5 shows what device 100 looks like from the top. FIG. 7 schematically shows how the elements of device 100 fit together. FIG. 6 shows a side view of handle 20 of device 100. FIG. 8 shows a perspective view of device 100, where arms 20 have been folded back, but clip 10 has not yet been opened.

FIG. 6 shows that the hinge elements 22 of arm 20 of device 100 may be longer than the middle segment 26 of that arm. Specifically, hinge elements 22 are shown having a length 22L that is greater than length 26L of middle segment 26. A suitable distance for the length of the entirety of one embodiment of arm 20 is 2.275 inches.

Returning to FIG. 2, middle segment 26 includes an edge 29 that is positioned near arm-retaining portion 18 of clip 10. This may be true of the middle segments of both arms 20 of device 100, although only one arm 20 is visible in FIG. 2. FIG. 2 also shows that each arm 20 of device 100 has a widest portion 20WP that has substantially the same width as the widest portion 10WP of clip 10. A suitable distance for 10WP of one embodiment of clip 10 is 1.481 inches, and a suitable distance for 20WP of one embodiment of arm 20 is 1.485 inches. Although the widest portions of the present clips and arms may be positioned anywhere along the lengths of those items, FIG. 2 shows that, in one embodiment, widest portion 20WP of each arm 20 is positioned near widest portion 10WP of clip 10.

The indentions of the arms of the devices shown in figures 1-16 are positioned such that the inserts in those indentions (or the indentions themselves) do not contact the leverage bumps when the clips are opened. This is shown, for example, in FIG. 9, which depicts clip 10 in an open position. In other embodiments, however, the inserts and

1 indentions may be positioned in the arms so as to contact the leverage bumps when a
2 given clip is opened. FIG. 9 also illustrates that clip 10 is one example of a clip that has
3 an open position that includes two substantially parallel sides connected by an arch. In
4 contrast, the following patents and application disclose only clips that lack an open
5 position that includes two substantially parallel sides connected by an arch: U.S. Patents
6 D321,209; D321,210; D372,498; D485,780; 1,139,627; 1,150,073; 4,332,060; 4,402,530;
7 4,532,680; 4,761,862; 5,249,336; 5,533,236; 5,896,624; 6,327,749; and U.S. Patent
8 Application Serial No. 10/060,942 filed January 30, 2002 in the name of Chip Thomson.

9 One advantage of the present leverage bumps is that they may isolate the wear on
10 the present clips that results from repeated opening of the clips, provided the leverage
11 bumps are sized and positioned so that the contact between the arms of the present
12 devices and the clips of the present devices occurs at the leverage bumps. In this way,
13 the leverage bumps can be thought of as the isolation points for the inevitable wear on the
14 clips of the present devices.

15 FIG. 10 is a top view of device 100, and shows that device 100 may include a
16 wallet 36 that is effectively held by clip 10, and more specifically holding portion HP of
17 clip 10. Holding portion HP of clip 10, shown in FIGS. 5 and 10, may include at least
18 arm-retaining portions 18 of ends 14. Wallet 36 may have a back end positioned against
19 the inside of clip 10 such that the rear portion of wallet 36 may be described as being
20 received in receiving portion RP of clip 10 (see FIGS. 5 and 10). FIG. 5 shows that
21 receiving portion RP of clip 10, or spring 10, may include an arch A. A suitable diameter
22 for one embodiment of that arch is 0.5 inches. Furthermore, clip 10, or spring 10, may be

referred to in this document (including the claims) as having an arcuate shaped portion (such as arch A) at one end of the clip, and two arm-retaining portions 18.

The clips, or springs, 10 shown in FIGS. 1-16, all have the same configuration. Thus, the details of clips 10 – such as the leverage bumps, the receiving and holding portions, the arm-retaining portions, etc. – are not labeled in FIGS. 12 and 14. The arms shown in FIGS. 11-13, in FIGS. 14-16 and in FIGS. 58-62 are shaped differently (although they include the same features) from the arms shown in FIGS. 1-10. Accordingly, these alternative arms have been given new element numbers in FIGS. 11-16 and 58-62. The last digit of these new element numbers remains the same of the last digit of the corresponding element number from the arms in FIGS. 1-10, except the first digit has been increased by 30 in FIGS. 11-13, by 60 in FIGS. 14-16, and by 90 in FIGS. 58-62. Although the hinge segments of the arms of device 600 shown in FIGS. 58-62 exist, they are not visible in those figures. The arms 110 in FIGS. 58-62 may be described as having a length (the length running from edge 119 to the forwardmost end of the arm (*i.e.*, the portion of the arm farthest from the clip when device 600 is in an empty closed position)) and being bowed along the length.

Arms 50 of device 200 depicted in FIGS. 11 and 12 include indentions 62 and inserts 64. Arms 50 of device 200 also each include two hinge elements 52 separated by two slots 54 and a middle segment 56. As shown in FIG. 13, each hinge element 52 includes an elongated segment 55 and a hinge segment 57. The hinge segment 57 of a given arm 50 are designed to fit at least partially within the arm-retaining portion 18 (or at least partially within the open ends of the arm-retaining portion 18) of an end 14 of clip 10. Furthermore, as with hinge elements 22 and middle segments 26 of arms 20, the

1 hinge elements 52 of each arm 50 are longer than the middle segment 56 of each arm.
2 This is illustrated in FIG. 13 by hinge element 52 having a linked 52L that is greater than
3 the length 56L of middle segment 56.

4 The arm-retaining portions, or hinges, of the present clips 10 and the arms (e.g.,
5 the non-wire frame arms) that are, respectively, pivotally coupled to them may be
6 collectively configured such that those arms snap into position as they (i.e., those arms)
7 are moved from a bent-back position (see, e.g., FIG. 8) to a closed position (see, e.g.,
8 FIGS. 1 and 5). Such a configured hinge and non-wire frame arm are shown in FIGS.
9 57A-57D, which are a series of views showing a hinge 18 and the position during the
10 process of closing the arms of a cross-sectionally depicted portion of a hinge segment 57
11 positioned at least partially within that hinge (e.g., within an outer open end of the same).
12 FIG. 57A shows the position of hinge segment 57 when the arm of which it is a part is in
13 a bent-back position; FIG. 57B shows the position of hinge segment 57 when the arm of
14 which it is at a 90-degree angle to the length of the clip; FIG. 57C shows the position of
15 hinge segment 57 when the arm of which it is a part is just about to snap closed; and FIG.
16 57D shows the position of hinge segment 57 when the arm of which it is a part has
17 snapped into the empty closed position.

18 FIGS. 37-42 are inside (side), outside (side), end, top, outside perspective, and
19 inside perspective views, respectively, of a version of arm 50 that includes an indentation
20 62 that protrudes outwardly from the outside of arm 50 such that indentation 62 will
21 contact a leverage bump of a clip having a leverage bump at some point during the
22 process of opening the clip as far as it will open. No insert is provided in this
23 embodiment of arm 50.

FIGS. 43-48 are inside (side), outside (side), end, top, outside perspective, and inside perspective views, respectively, of another version of arm 50 that includes an indentation 62 that protrudes outwardly from the outside of arm 50 such that indentation 62 will contact a leverage bump of a clip having a leverage bump at some point during the process of opening the clip as far as it will open. The edge of indentation 62—judged from the outside of arm 50—is closer to the edge of the forwardmost end of the arm than the same edge of indentation 62 in FIGS. 37-42. No insert is provided in this embodiment of arm 50.

Arms 80 of device 300 depicted in FIGS. 14 and 15 include indentions 92 and inserts 94. The same indentation and insert are labeled with 92' and 94', respectively, in FIG. 16, because the sizes of the two features is slightly different in FIG. 16. Arms 80 of device 300 also each include two hinge elements 82 separated by two slots 84 and a middle segment 86. As shown in FIG. 16, each hinge element 82 includes an elongated segment 85 and a hinge segment 87. The hinge segment 87 of a given arm 80 are designed to fit at least partially within the arm-retaining portion 18 of an end 14 of clip 10. Furthermore, as with hinge elements 22 and middle segments 26 of arms 20, the hinge elements 82 of each arm 80 are longer than the middle segment 86 of each arm. This is illustrated in FIG. 16 by hinge element 82 having a length 82L that is greater than the length 86L of middle segment 86.

The clips and arms in certain embodiments of the devices shown in FIGS. 1-16 and 37-48 may be configured such that when force is applied to begin opening the clip of the device, one or both arms contact the clip at a location that is closer to the hinges of the clip than to the arch of the retaining portion RP, and the clip will begin to open before

1 any contact between that arm and the clip at a second location that is closer to the arch
2 than the hinges. An example of such a configuration is illustrated in FIGS. 49-52. FIG.
3 49 shows that clip 10 of device 100 (unlabeled) may have a main portion 23 that excludes
4 the hinges 18 and the very back end of the tip of the arch. The device is in a bent-back
5 position in this figure. FIG. 50 is an enlarged view of the detail circled in FIG. 49, and
6 shows that contact between arm 50 and clip 10 (and, more specifically, main portion 23
7 of arm 50) occurs—during the process of applying force to begin opening clip 10—as
8 locations 29, which are closer to the end 19 of the clip that is characterized by hinges 18
9 than to the end 21 of the clip that is characterized by the arch. (A suitable length
10 spanning ends 19 and 21 for one embodiment of clip 10 is 1.245 inches.) Locations 29
11 may be positioned on segment 15, or protrusion 15, of clip 10 shown in, for example,
12 FIGS. 53-56. FIG. 51 shows that as someone or something continues to apply that force,
13 clip 10 will begin, and begins, to open before any contact between either arm and main
14 portion 23 of clip 10 occurs at a second location (e.g., leverage bump 16 of clip 10) that
15 is closer to end 21 than end 19. FIG. 52 shows that opening in slightly greater detail.

16 To the same end of configuring the clip as just discussed, the hinges of the present
17 clips may be configured as shown in the different views of FIGS. 53-56. The edges 13 of
18 the hinges 18 that define the outer open ends of those hinges may be shaped as shown in
19 these figures.

20 There are many suitable ways of constructing the present devices, and there are
21 many suitable materials that may be used. One material that may be used for the clip or
22 spring of the devices shown in FIGS. 1-16 is carbon steel (e.g., medium carbon steel), or
23 spring steel. The arms of these devices may also be made from such material. To create

1 the clip using spring steel, a flat piece that has the shape of the clip laid flat may be cut
2 using a die and punch method (*e.g.*, stamped at room temperature). Any leverage bumps
3 that are used on that clip may then be pressed into the cut clip using, for example, a die.
4 The hinges of the clip may then be formed such that, in some embodiments, material is
5 wrapped to form the hinges. Afterwards, the flat piece of spring steel may be bent to the
6 desired configuration and tempered. The tempering may involve heating the material to
7 1525 to 1575 degrees F (Fahrenheit) for a suitable period of time; quenching the material
8 to 350 to 400 degrees F; and tempering the material to 700 to 800 degrees F for a suitable
9 period of time. This heating and quenching may result in an Rc50 hardness. If the arms
10 are made from spring steel, they may be cut using a die and punch method (*e.g.*, stamped
11 at room temperature) from spring steel that has been tempered. Alternatively, the spring
12 steel need not have been tempered. In either case, any indentions may then be formed
13 using, for example, a die. Any bow, such as a 1-, 2-, or 3-degree bow, that is given to the
14 arms may then be formed using, for example, a die; and the heat treatment described
15 above for the clip may be used on the arms. Sharp edges may be debugged after the
16 stamping process described above. The debugged material may then be polished using
17 any suitable polishing agent. Furthermore, electroplating and laser engraving may be
18 used as desired to create a more attractive products. A brass electroplating may be
19 applied to the clip and/or the arms, followed by one of a chrome, black nickel and silver
20 electroplating. If chrome electroplating is used, a titanium electroplating may be applied
21 over it. In any case, a clear E coating may be applied over whatever electroplating is
22 carried out. The arms may then be pivotally coupled (*e.g.*, hinged) to the hinges of the
23 clip, and the resulting product may be packaged for sale.

1 Alternatively, the arms may be constructed from titanium, or any other metal or
2 alloy that is stiff, not easily plastically-deformed, and that has good wear-resistant
3 properties. It may also be possible to utilize certain polymers for the arms of the devices
4 shown, for example, in FIGS. 1-16, provided the polymer possesses these same
5 properties. Injection molding (using, for example, an extruder at some point in the
6 process) may be used to create arms from polymers.

7 The remaining figures show other embodiments of the present devices. These
8 embodiments include, generally, a clip, an outer element in contact with the clip, and
9 arms pivotally coupled to the outer element. The clips in the remaining figures may also
10 be described in this document (including the claims) as springs.

11 Referring generally now to FIGS. 17-27C, one embodiment of the present devices
12 is device 400 shown in these figures. Device 400 includes a clip 410 that has an outer
13 surface. Device 400 also includes an outer element 420 that contacts the outer surface of
14 clip 410. Outer element 420 includes two ends 422. Device 410 includes an arm 430
15 pivotally coupled to each end 422. The arms 430 of device 400 may be provided with an
16 indentation 431 and an insert (not shown), in the same fashion as described above for the
17 devices shown in FIGS. 1-16. Alternatively, no such indentation may be provided (see
18 FIG. 27A). The arms 430 of device 400 may be provided with a protrusion 428.
19 Protrusions 428 are shown in FIGS. 17-27C as being centered across the width of arms
20 430. Protrusions 428 may be positioned so as to contact outer element 420 when clip 410
21 is opened.

22 Outer element 420 includes two sides 424, 426 that are hinged together. The
23 hinging may be achieved by providing side 424 with a male element 495 (e.g., a

1 "tongue") that has a passageway running through it (the passageway is unlabeled and
2 may be cylindrical in shape); providing side 426 with two outer portions 497 that define
3 between them a female portion 499 (*e.g.*, a "groove"), the outer portions 497 each having
4 a passageway running through them (the passageways are unlabeled and may be
5 cylindrical in shape); and joining the outer portions 497 with the male portion 495 using a
6 pin 440, as shown schematically in FIG. 25.

7 Sides 424 and 426 each include an outer surface 450 that has a recessed portion
8 452. Protrusions 428 of arms 430 of device 400 may be positioned so as to contact
9 recessed portions 452 when clip 410 is opened.

10 Arms 430 are shown in FIGS. 17-27C as being coupled to ends 422 with pins 460
11 (see, especially, FIG. 25). One manner of achieving this pivotal coupling involves
12 providing each arm 430 with a coupling portion 462 (shaped, for example, like a portion
13 of a cylinder) that contacts the pin 460 that couples that arm to an end 422. Similarly, the
14 end 422 of each side 424 and 426 may be provided with coupling portions 476 that
15 contact the pin 460 that couples a given arm to that end (see, *e.g.*, FIGS. 23-25).

16 Outer element 420 of device 400 includes an inner surface that includes a
17 recessed portion, and clip 410 contacts the recessed portion of that inner surface. A
18 version of this is shown in cross-sectional form in FIG. 22, where each side 424 and 426
19 includes an inner surface 464 with a recessed portion 466. Inner surfaces 464 of the two
20 sides of element 420 comprise the inner surface of outer element 420. In addition, the
21 recessed portions 466 of the two sides of outer element 420 comprise the recessed portion
22 of the inner surface of outer element 420. Clip 410 is shown in FIG. 22 as being in

1 contact with the recessed portion of the outer element (e.g., recessed portions 466 of the
2 inner surfaces 464 of sides 424 and 426).

3 FIG. 23 shows that the recessed portion 466 of inner surface 464 of side 426 (and
4 this is also true of side 424) is bordered by two shoulder portions 468 (see also FIG. 25).
5 Each shoulder portion 468 includes a groove 470 into which a portion of clip 410 fits.
6 Grooves 470 are shown in FIGS. 22, 24, 27B and 27C. The manner in which portions of
7 clip 410 fit within grooves 470 will be understood from considering FIGS. 25, 27B and
8 27C.

9 In FIG. 25, clip 410 as shown includes a back portion 485 and two retainer
10 portions 487. Each retainer portion 487 includes an upper retainer element 483 and a
11 lower retainer element 484. These two retainer elements are separated by a holding
12 element 490. Holding element 490 extends farther from back portion 485 than either
13 retainer element of either retainer portion. The upper and lower retaining elements 483
14 and 484, respectively, fit within grooves 470 as shown in FIGS. 27B and 27C. Holding
15 elements 490 are slightly curved at their ends, as shown in FIG. 25. Holding elements
16 490 do not fit within and extend past grooves 470. The operation of holding elements
17 490 will be discussed more below.

18 FIG. 27A shows that a wallet 480 holding cards and around which paper has been
19 folded may be placed within device 400. Device 400 may be said to include wallet 480.
20 Wallet 480 may be sized, or configured, to be held by clip 410. The portions of clip 410
21 that will perform most, if not all, of the "holding" function are the portions of shoulder
22 portions 468 that form grooves 470. The surface of those portions may be rounded and

1 smooth, as shown in the figures, so as not to damage the wallet or any paper wrapped
2 around the wallet.

3 Holding elements 490 may provide some or none of the "holding" function.
4 Holding elements 490 primarily function to prevent unwanted movement of arms 430. In
5 this regard, coupling portions 462 of arms 430 may be provided with one or more cam
6 bumps 489 (see FIGS. 25 and 27C). FIGS. 28A-28O are a series of views that show how
7 holding elements 490 operates in the embodiment shown to keep pressure on arms 430,
8 in part, through contact with cam bumps 489. These figures (along with FIGS. 27B and
9 27C) also show that the coupling portion of the arms of may be "closed," instead of half-
10 open, as shown, for example, in FIG. 25.

11 FIGS. 29-36 show another of the present devices that includes a clip, an outer
12 element in contact with the clip, and arms pivotally coupled to the outer element. There
13 are a number of similarities between the devices shown in FIGS. 29-36 and the devices
14 shown in FIGS. 17-28O. Accordingly, elements of the devices in FIGS. 29-36 that are
15 similar to certain elements of the devices in FIGS. 17-28O have been given similar
16 element numbers, except that the element numbers have been increased by 100.
17 Likewise, the only difference between the device depicted in FIGS. 29-35 and the device
18 depicted in FIG. 36 are certain details of the arms and sides of those devices. As a result,
19 where the sides and arms of the device depicted in FIGS. 29-35 have been labeled 526,
20 524, and 530, respectively, those same elements have been labeled 526', 524', and 530'
21 for the device depicted in FIG. 36. The shape of the coupling portions 562 of arms 530
22 of FIG. 500 shown in FIGS. 29-35 are also slightly different in shape than those same

1 features in device 500' in FIG. 36. Accordingly, the coupling portion of arms 530' have
2 been labeled with element number 562'.

3 Unlike the device shown in FIGS. 17-28O, device 500 in FIGS. 29-35 includes
4 leverage bumps on at least one side of outer element 520. More specifically, outer
5 element 520 of device 500 includes leverage bumps 501 on both sides 526 and 524. At
6 least one arm 530 of device 500 includes a leverage bump 502. More specifically, both
7 arms 530 of device 500 include leverage bumps 502. Each leverage bump 502 contacts
8 outer element 520 when clip 510 is open. More specifically, each leverage bump 502 is
9 configured to contact leverage bump 501 of the corresponding side of outer element 520
10 when clip 510 is opened. This contact is shown in FIG. 35 just prior to clip 510 being
11 opened.

12 Sides 526 and 524 of device 500, and sides 526' and 524' of device 500', each
13 have two elongated elements 505 that define between them an arm recess. This arm
14 recess is labeled as 509 in FIGS. 29-35 and as element 509' in FIG. 36. The difference
15 between the two arm recesses is the shape near the coupling portions 562 and 562' of the
16 two devices.

17 Arms 530 and 530' of devices 500 and 500' may be provided with female notches
18 503 as shown in FIG. 36. Outer elements 505 of devices 500 and 500' may be provided
19 with corresponding male notches 507 as shown in FIG. 36. If appropriately configured,
20 the corresponding notches may better serve to keep arms 530 and 530', respectively,
21 from bending more inwardly than elongated elements 505 when the devices are in the
22 closed position.

1 The elements of the devices shown in FIGS. 17-36 may be made in a variety of
2 ways. One way of making the clips of these devices is discussed above (i.e., using spring
3 steel that is cut, bent, and then tempered). The outer elements and arms of the devices in
4 these figures need not be as rigid as the arms of the devices in FIGS. 1-16 preferably are.
5 For example, the outer elements (e.g., the sides of the outer elements) of the devices in
6 FIGS. 17-36 may be made from cast aluminum, silver (e.g., sterling silver), gold
7 (provided the carat value is not too high), magnesium, steel, titanium, or a hard polymer.
8 The arms and out elements may be cast or injection molded using either a metal (or alloy)
9 or a polymer.

10 All of the devices disclosed and claimed can be made and used without undue
11 experimentation in light of the present disclosure. While the present devices have been
12 described in terms of certain embodiments, it will be apparent to those of skill in the art
13 that variations may be applied to these devices without departing from the scope of the
14 present invention as defined by the following claims. For example, the arms of the
15 present devices may be any suitable shape, including hexagonal, or octagonal, as may any
16 indentions and inserts.

17 The claims are not to be interpreted as including means-plus- or step-plus-
18 function limitations, unless such a limitation is explicitly recited in a given claim using
19 the phrase(s) "means for" or "step for," respectively.

WE CLAIM:

1. A device comprising:

a clip having two ends and a leverage bump; and

an arm pivotally coupled to each end;

where one of the arms contacts the leverage bump when the clip is opened.

2. The device of claim 1, where the leverage bump includes two outer portions and a middle portion, and the two outer portions protrude more outwardly from the clip than the middle portion.

3. The device of claim 1, where the clip has two leverage bumps, and each arm contacts a leverage bump when the clip is opened.

4. The device of claim 3, where each leverage bump includes two outer portions and a middle portion, and the two outer portions of each leverage bump protrude more outwardly from the clip than the middle portion.

5. The device of claim 1, where each arm includes two hinge elements separated by two slots and a middle segment, and each hinge element has an elongated segment and a hinge segment.

6. The device of claim 5, where each end of the clip includes an arm-retaining portion, and the hinge segments of a given arm fit at least partially within the arm-retaining portion of an end of the clip.

1
2 7. The device of claim 5, where the hinge elements of each arm are longer than the
3 middle segment of that arm.

4
5 8. The device of claim 5, where an edge of the middle segment of each arm is
6 positioned near the arm-retaining portion of an end of the clip.

7
8 9. The device of claim 1, where each arm has a widest portion and the clip has a
9 widest portion, and the widest portions of the arms and the clip have substantially the
10 same width.

11
12 10. The device of claim 9, where the widest portion of each arm is positioned near the
13 widest portion of the clip.

14
15 11. The device of claim 1, where each arm includes an indentation.

16
17 12. The device of claim 11, where each arm includes an insert in the indentation.

18
19 13. The device of claim 1, further comprising:
20 a wallet configured to be held by the clip.

21
22 14. A device comprising:
23 a clip having a receiving portion and a holding portion, the receiving portion
24 including an arch, and the holding portion including two ends; and

1 an arm pivotally coupled to each end.

2

3 15. The device of claim 14, where the clip has two leverage bumps, and each arm
4 contacts a leverage bump when the clip is opened.

5

6 16. The device of claim 14, where each arm includes two hinge elements separated by
7 two slots and a middle segment, and each hinge element has an elongated segment and a
8 hinge segment.

9

10 17. The device of claim 16, where each end of the clip includes an arm-retaining
11 portion, and the hinge segments of a given arm fit at least partially within the arm-
12 retaining portion of an end of the clip.

13

14 18. The device of claim 14, where each arm has a widest portion and the clip has a
15 widest portion, and the widest portions of the arms and the clip have substantially the
16 same width.

17

18 19. The device of claim 18, where the widest portion of each arm is positioned near
19 the widest portion of the clip.

20

21 20. The device of claim 14, further comprising:

22 a wallet configured to be held by the clip.

23

1 21. A device comprising:
2 a clip having two hinges positioned beside each other, each hinge having two
3 outer open ends; and
4 an arm pivotally coupled to each hinge, each arm including two hinge segments
5 that are positioned at least partially within the two outer open ends of each
6 hinge, one of the hinge segments having a non-circular cross-sectional
7 profile;
8 the device being sized to hold one or more of paper, cards and a wallet.

9
10 22. The device of claim 21, the clip having a leverage bump positioned such that one
11 of the arms contacts the leverage bump when the clip is opened.

12
13 23. The device of claim 22, each arm having an elongated segment extending from
14 the hinge segment of that arm; and, when the clip is opened, an elongated segment of a
15 given arm contacts the clip before the given arm contacts the leverage bump.

16
17 24. The device of claim 22, the clip having two leverage bumps, and each arm
18 contacts a leverage bump when the clip is opened.

19
20 25. The device of claim 23, the elongated segments of a given arm being separated by
21 two slots and a middle segment.

22

26. The device of claim 25, each arm having a hinge element that includes one of the elongated segments and one of the hinge segments, the hinge element of a given arm being longer than the middle segment of the given arm.

27. The device of claim 25, an edge of the middle segment of each arm being positioned near a hinge of the clip.

28. The device of claim 22, each arm having a widest portion and the clip having a widest portion, the widest portions of the arms and the clip having substantially the same width.

29. The device of claim 28, the widest portion of each arm being positioned near the widest portion of the clip.

30. The device of claim 22, each arm including an indentation.

31. The device of claim 30, the indentation of one of the arms protruding outwardly so as to be closer to the leverage bump of the clip than any other portion of that arm when that arm is bent back and in contact with the leverage bump.

32. The device of claim 21, further comprising:
a wallet configured to be held by the clip.

1 33. A device comprising:
2 a clip that is not substantially triangular in shape when in an empty closed
3 position, the clip having two ends; and
4 an arm pivotally coupled to each end;
5 the device being sized to hold one or more of paper, cards and a wallet.

6
7 34. The device of claim 33, each end having a hinge to which an arm is pivotally
8 coupled.

9
10 35. The device of claim 34, each arm including two hinge segments that are
11 positioned at least partially within the hinge to which that arm is pivotally coupled, one of
12 the hinge segments having a non-circular cross-sectional profile.

13
14 36. The device of claim 35, the clip having a leverage bump positioned such that one
15 of the arms contacts the leverage bump when the clip is opened.

16
17 37. The device of claim 36, each arm having an elongated segment extending from
18 the hinge segment of that arm; and, when the clip is opened, an elongated segment of a
19 given arm contacts the clip before the given arm contacts the leverage bump.

20
21 38. The device of claim 36, the clip having two leverage bumps, and each arm
22 contacts a leverage bump when the clip is opened.

23

1 39. The device of claim 37, the elongated segments of a given arm being separated by
2 two slots and a middle segment.

3
4 40. The device of claim 39, each arm having a hinge element that includes one of the
5 elongated segments and one of the hinge segments, the hinge element of a given arm
6 being longer than the middle segment of the given arm.

7
8 41. The device of claim 39, an edge of the middle segment of each arm being
9 positioned near a hinge of the clip.

10
11 42. The device of claim 36, each arm having a widest portion and the clip having a
12 widest portion, the widest portions of the arms and the clip having substantially the same
13 width.

14
15 43. The device of claim 42, the widest portion of each arm being positioned near the
16 widest portion of the clip.

17
18 44. The device of claim 36, each arm including an indentation.

19
20 45. The device of claim 44, the indentation of one of the arms protruding outwardly so
21 as to be closer to the leverage bump of the clip than any other portion of that arm when
22 that arm is bent back and in contact with the leverage bump.

- 1 46. The device of claim 34, further comprising:
2 a wallet configured to be held by the clip.
3
4 47. The device of claim 33, each arm being a non-wire frame arm.
5

ABSTRACT

Devices for holding paper, cards, and/or wallets. One device has a clip with two ends and a leverage bump; and an arm pivotally coupled to each end. One of the arms contacts the leverage bump when the clip is opened. Another device includes a clip having a receiving portion and a holding portion. The receiving portion includes an arch. The holding portion includes two ends. An arm is pivotally coupled to each end. Other devices are included.

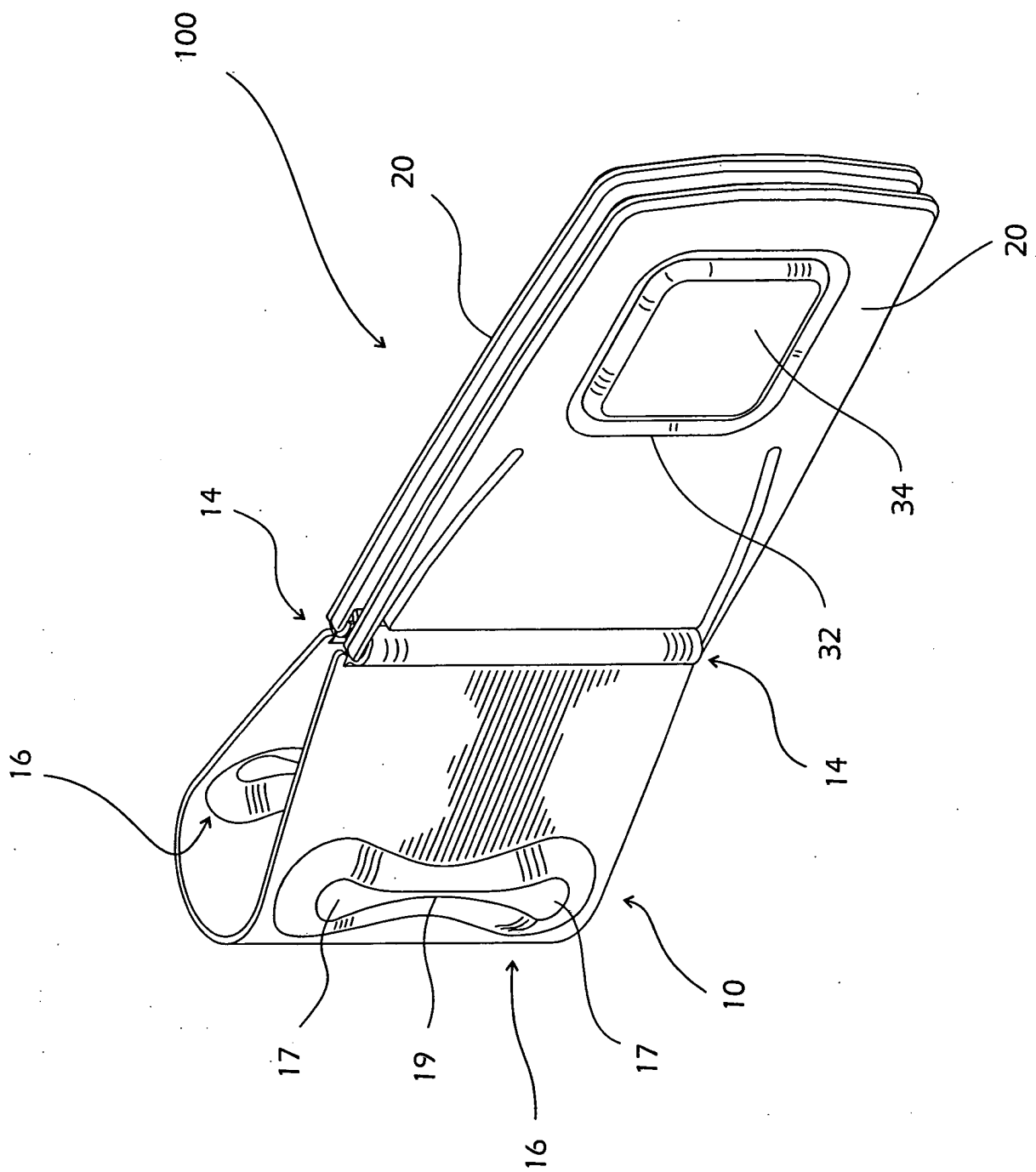


FIG. 1

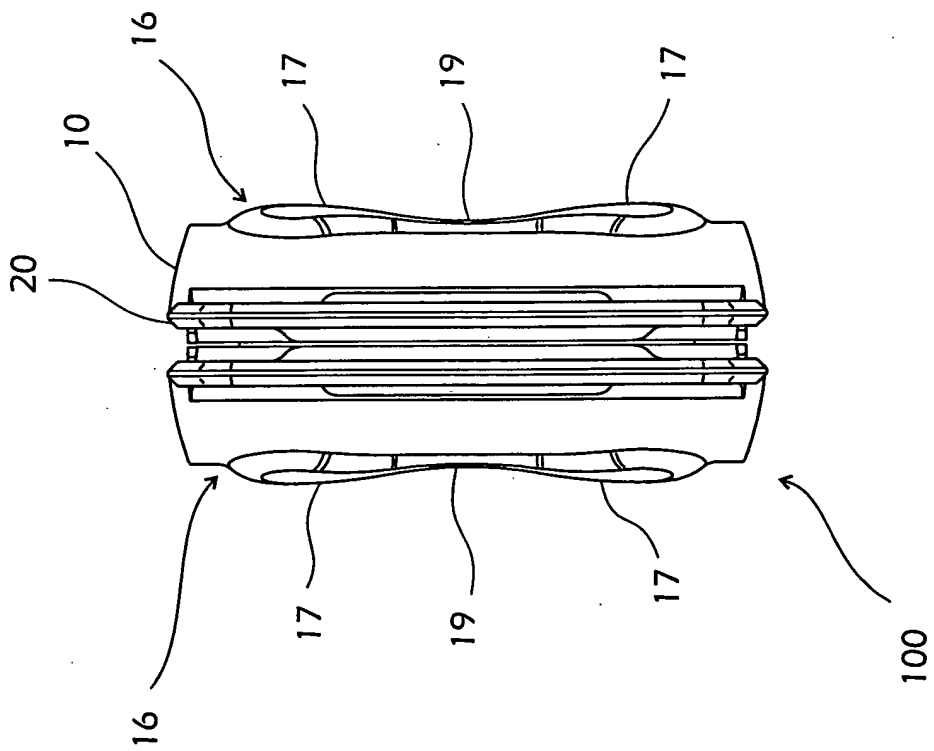


FIG.3

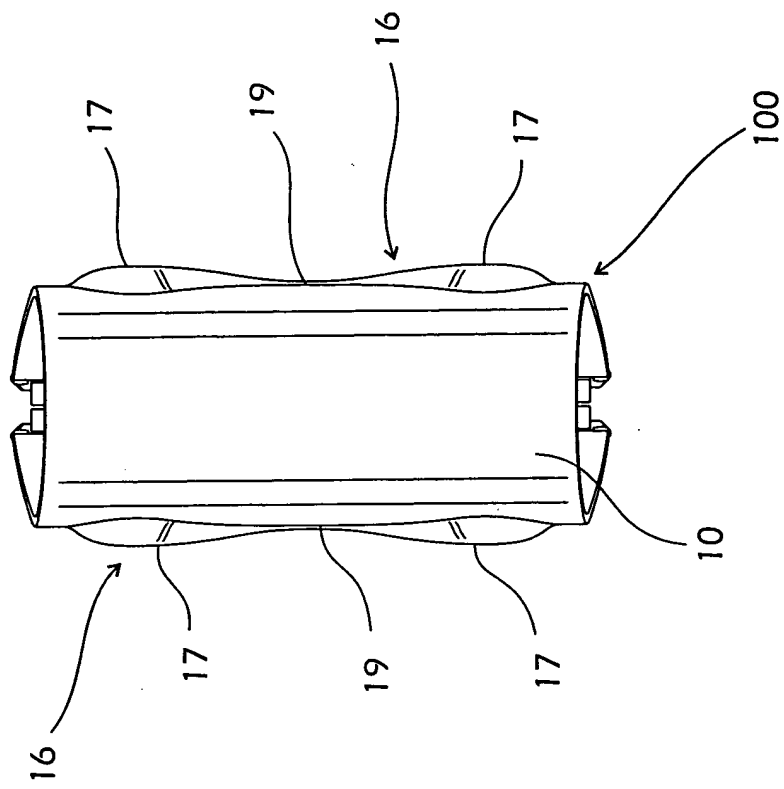


FIG.4

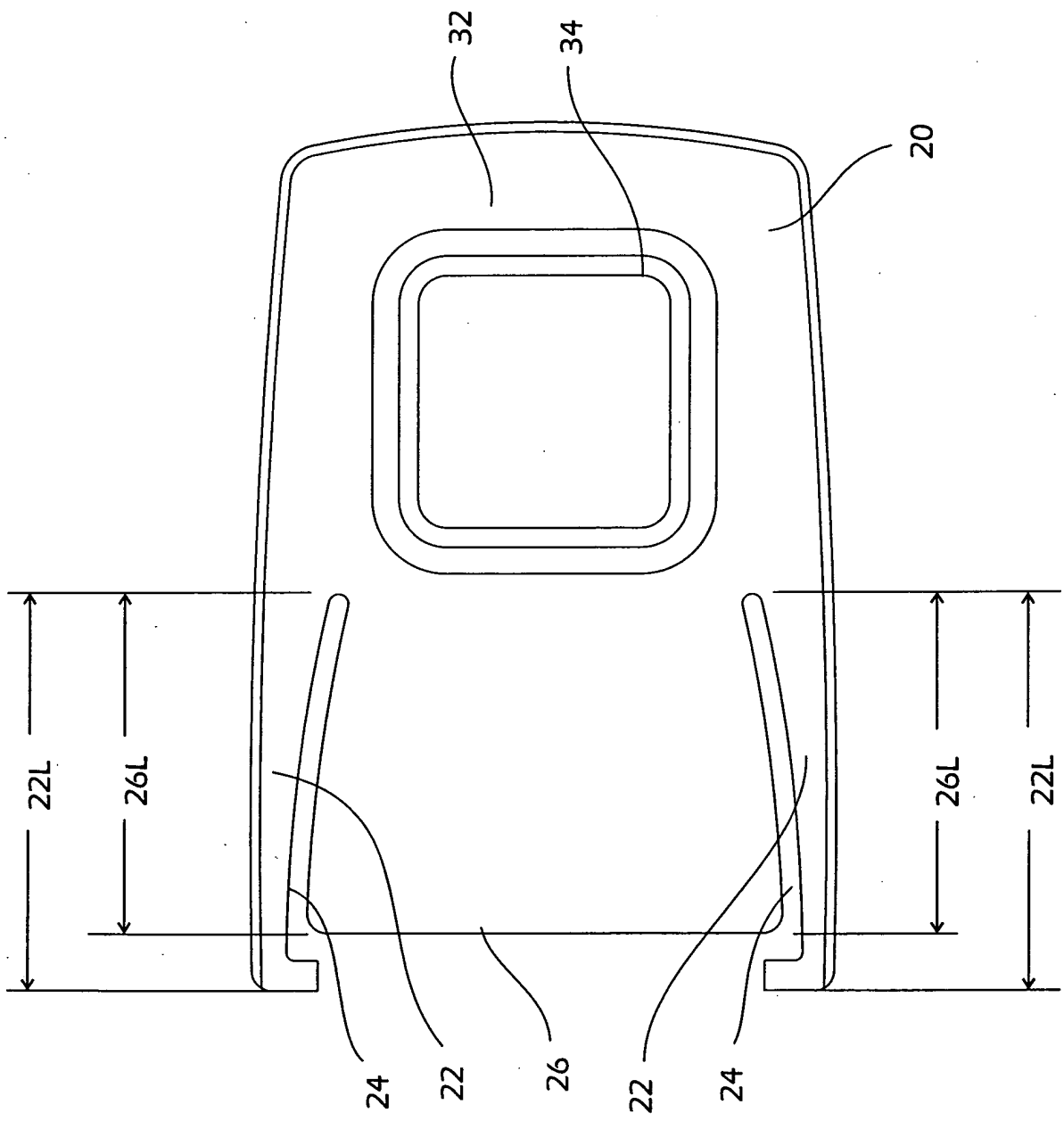


FIG.6

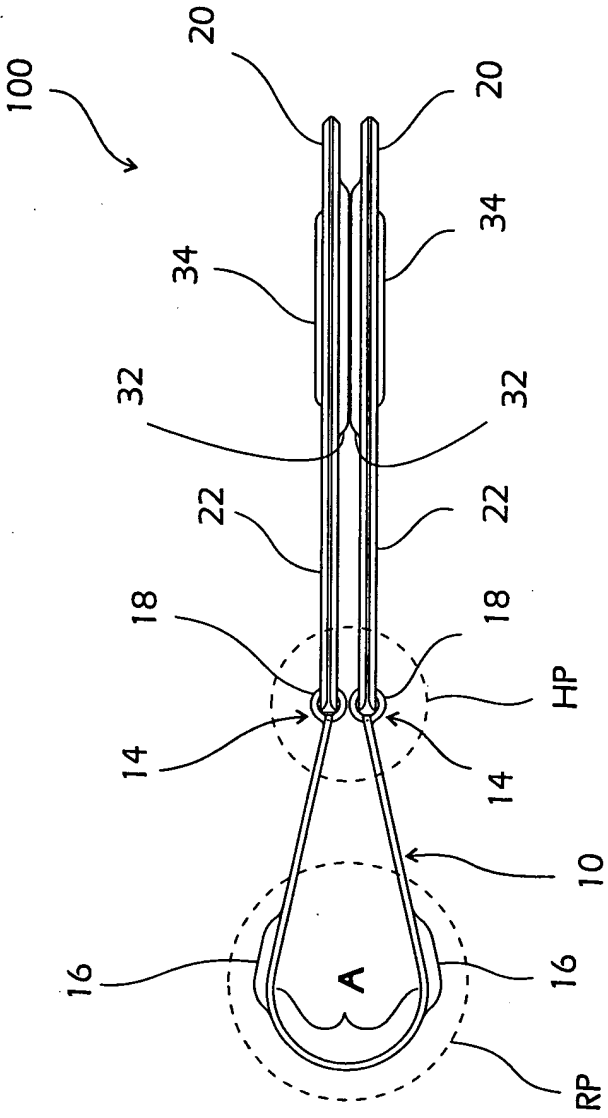


FIG. 5

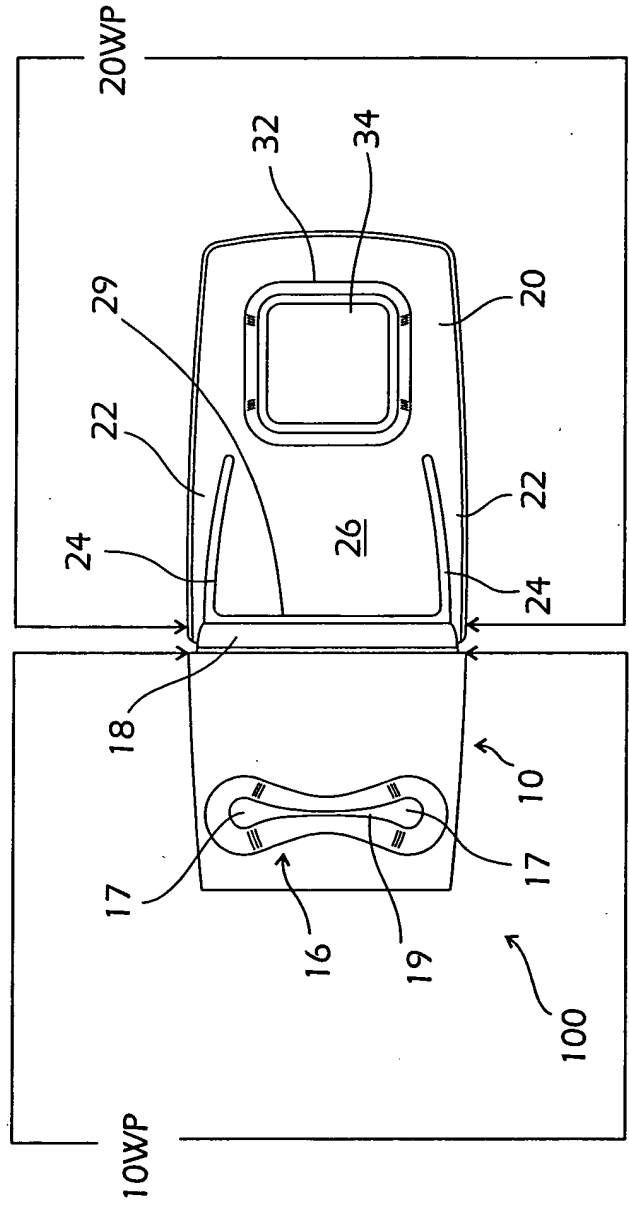


FIG. 2

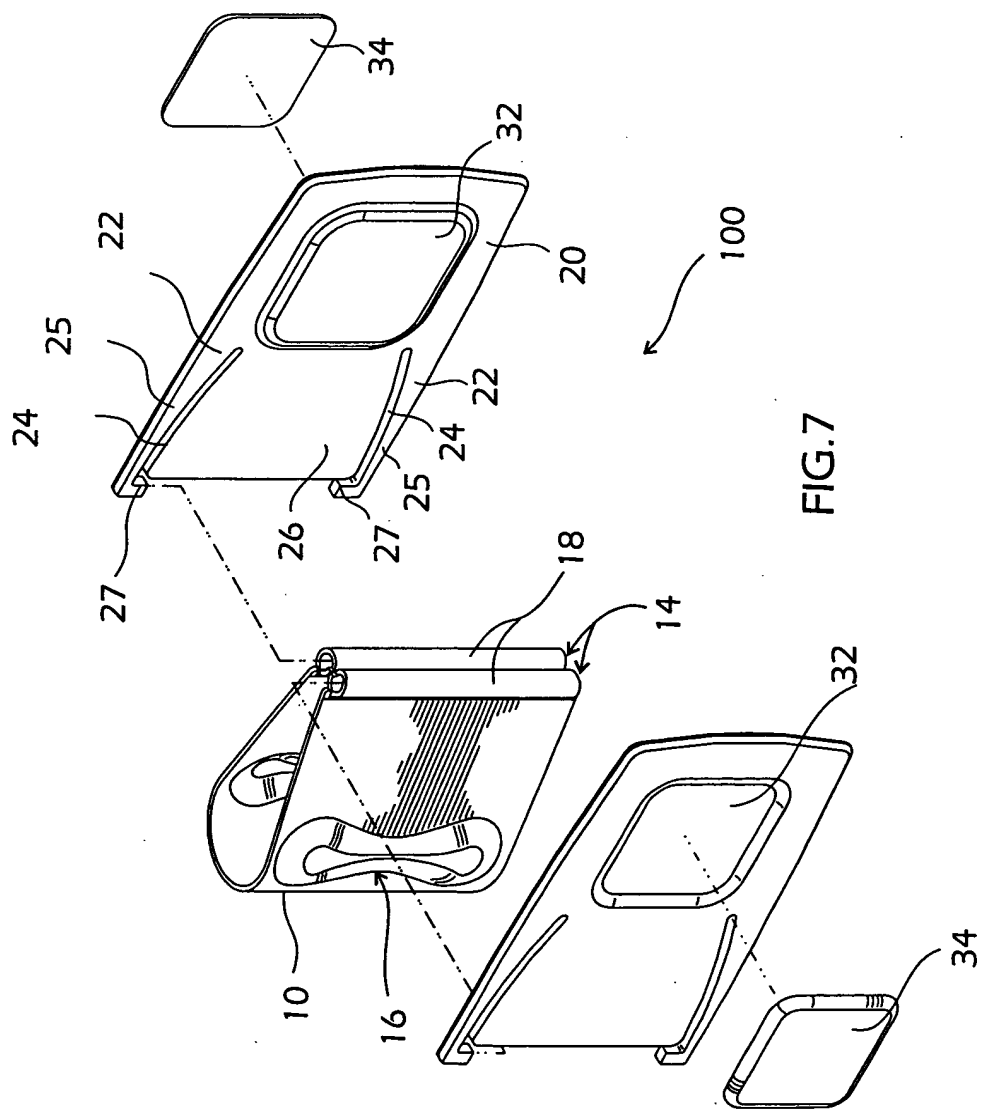


FIG. 7

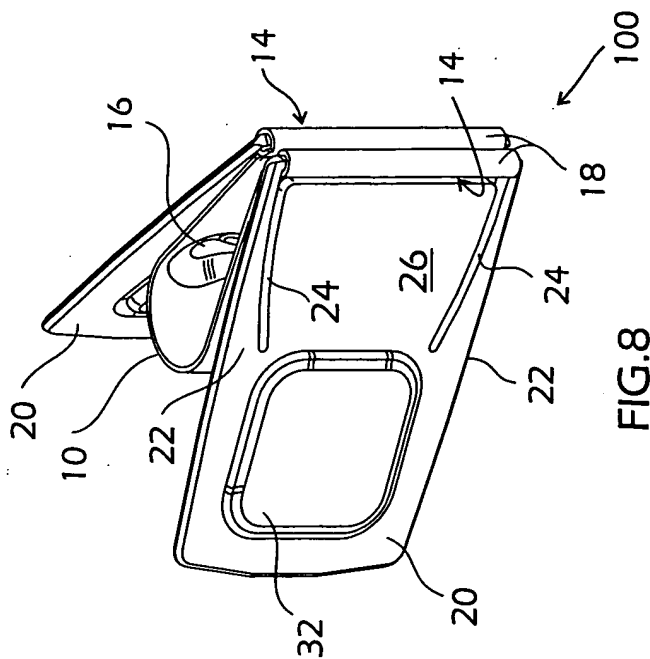


FIG. 8

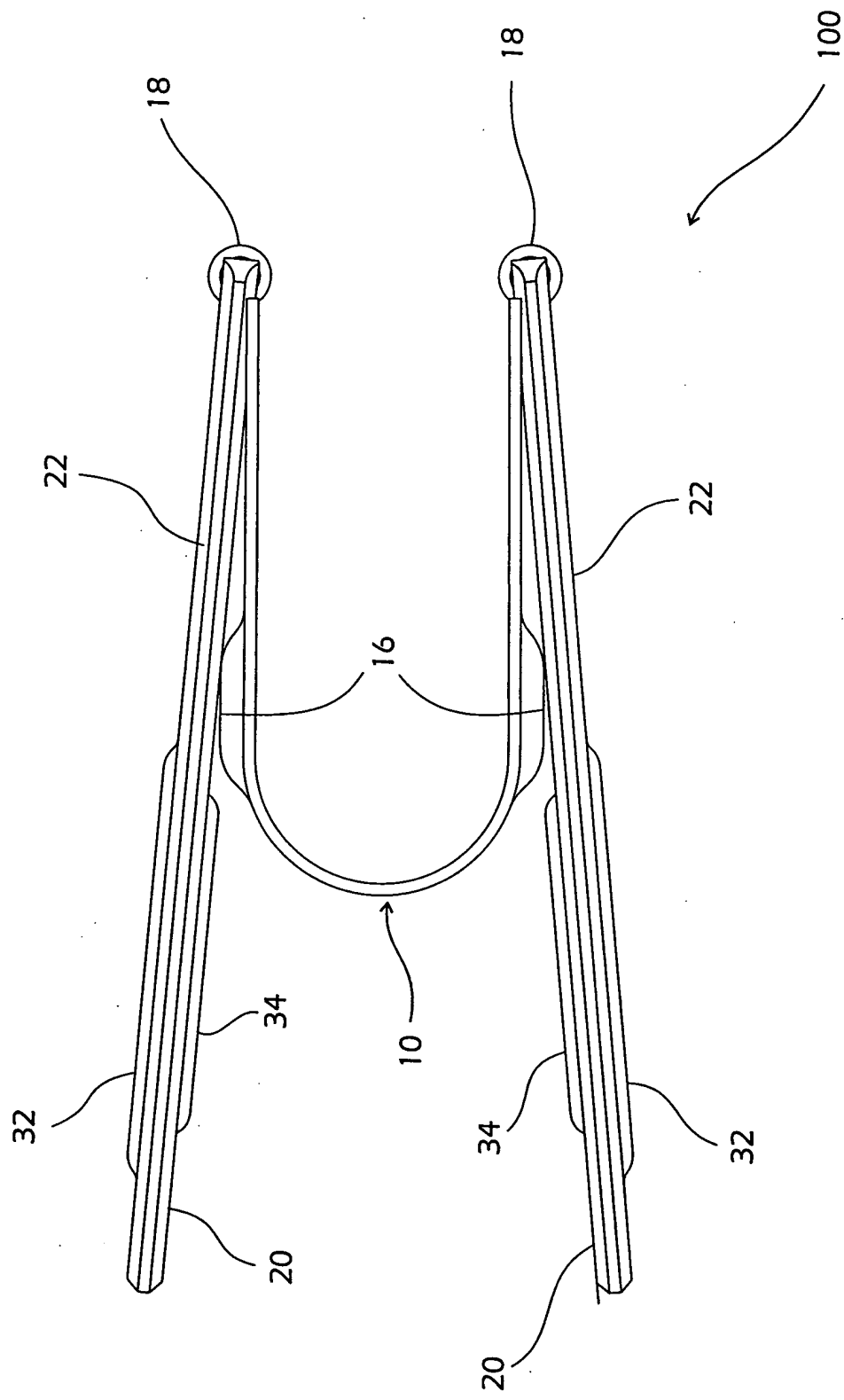


FIG.9

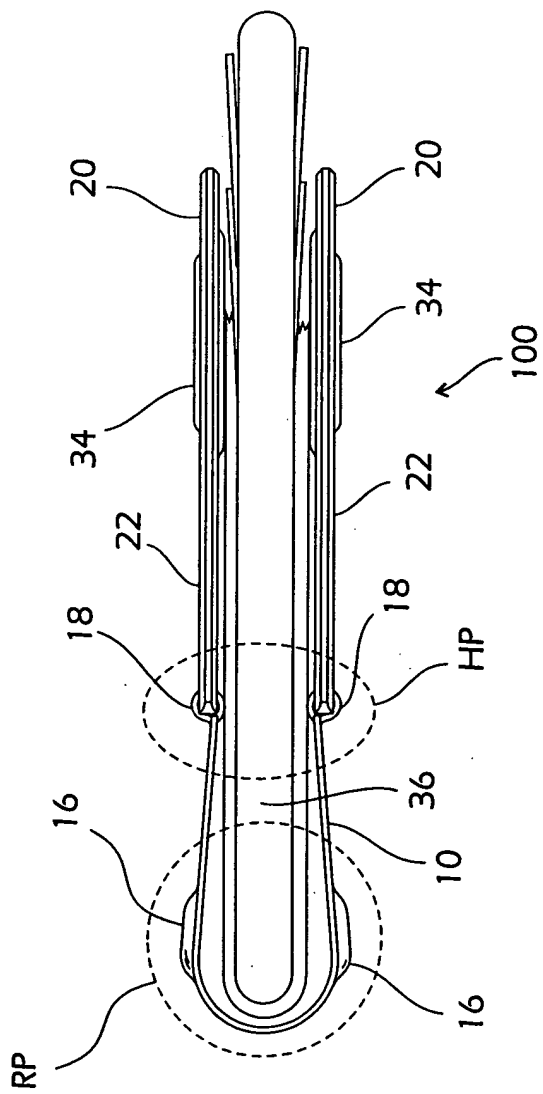


FIG. 10

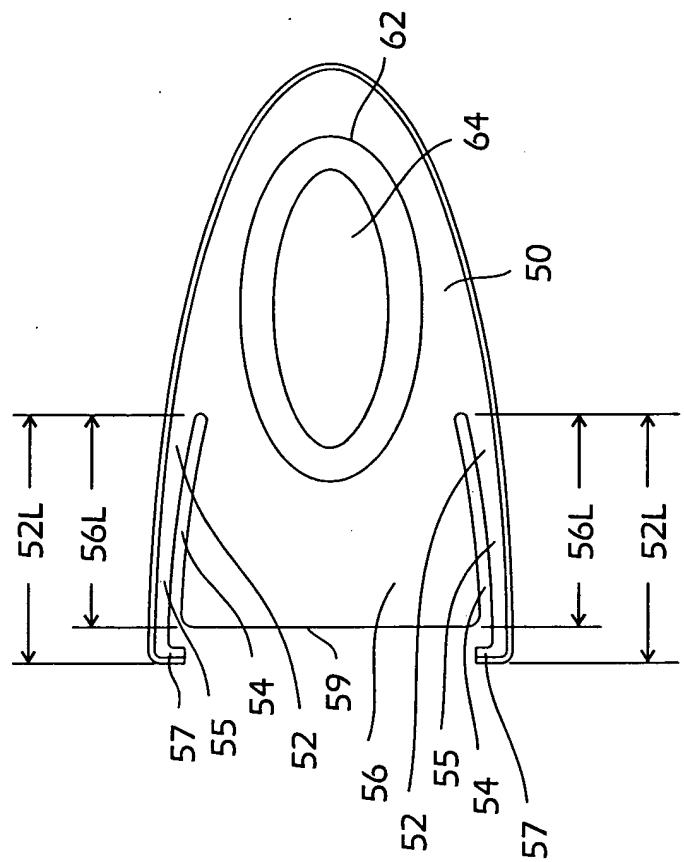


FIG. 13

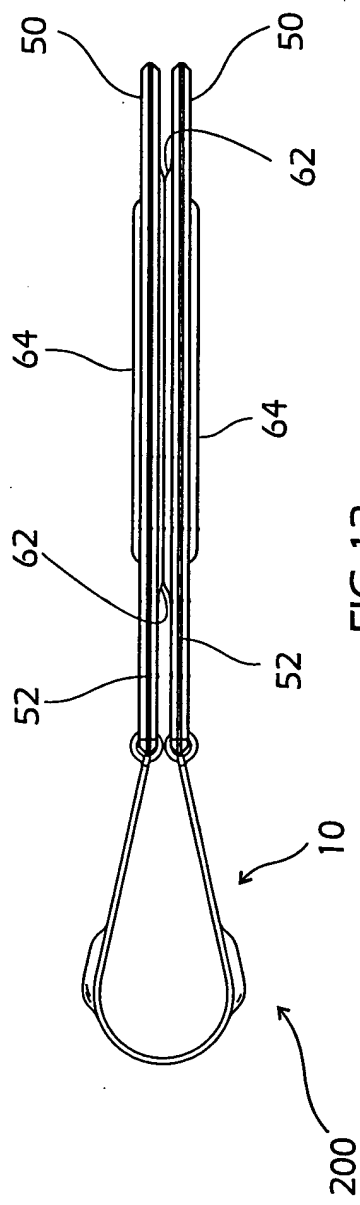


FIG. 12

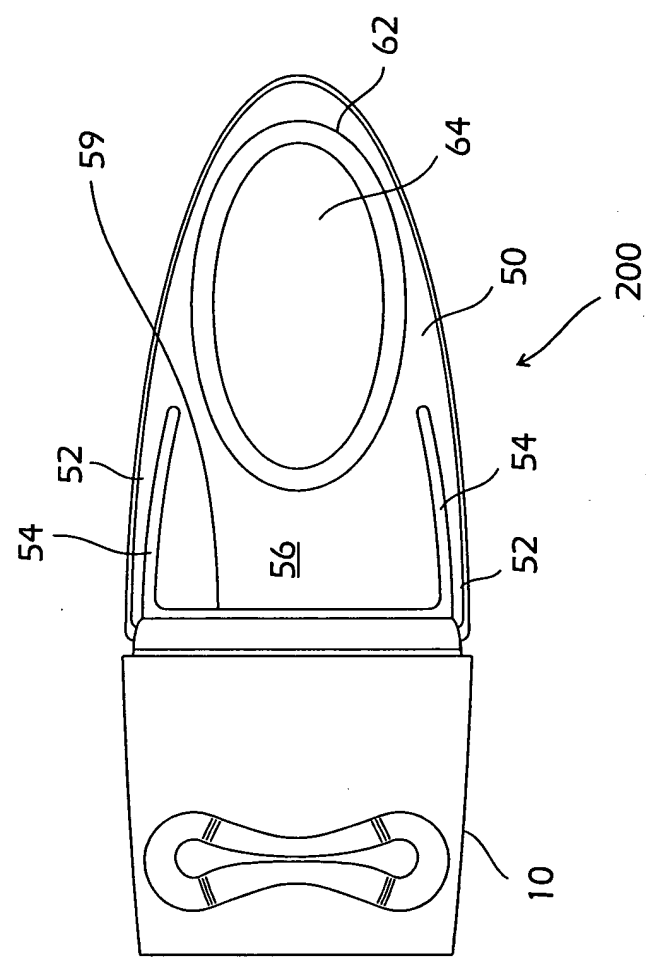


FIG. 11

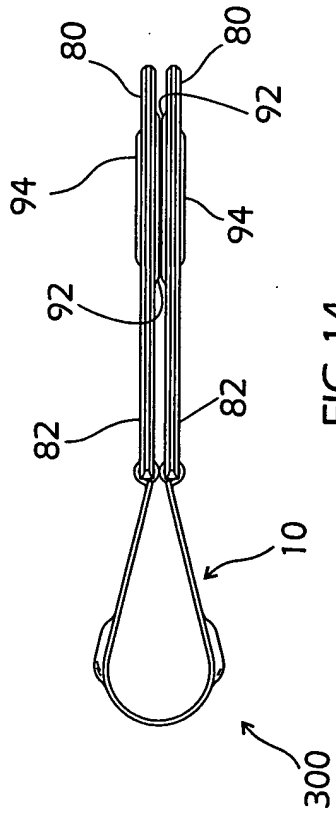


FIG. 14

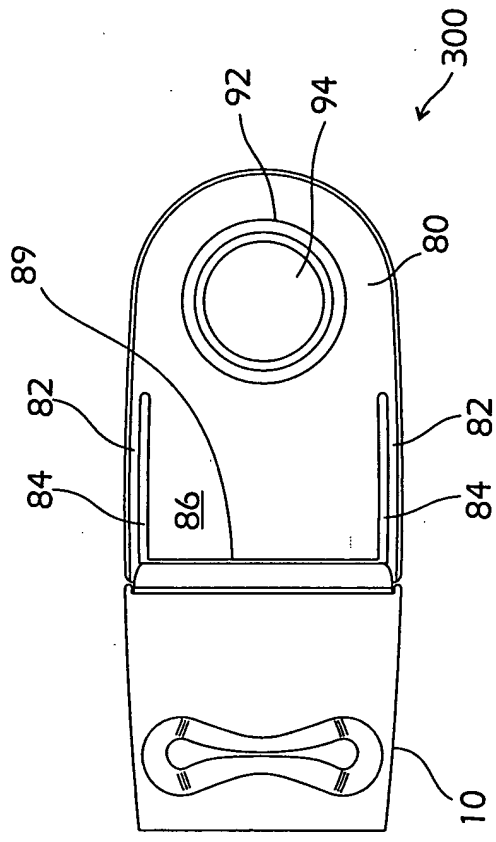


FIG. 15

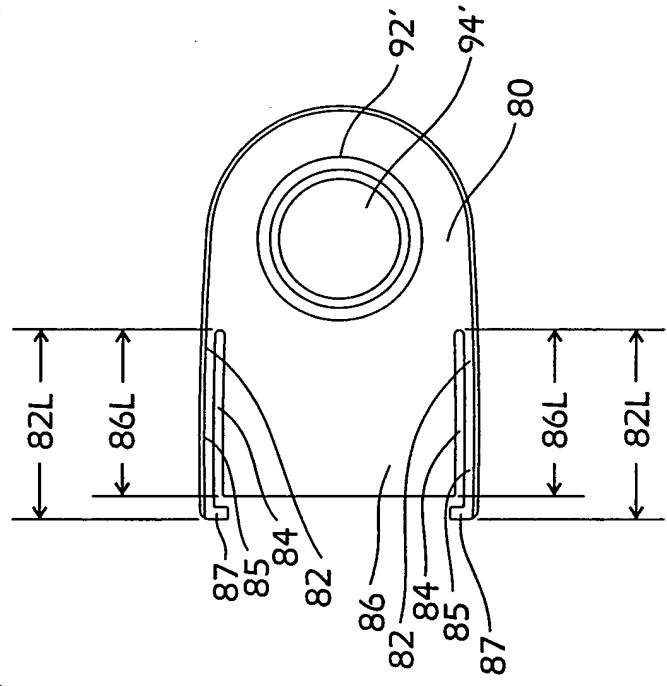


FIG. 16

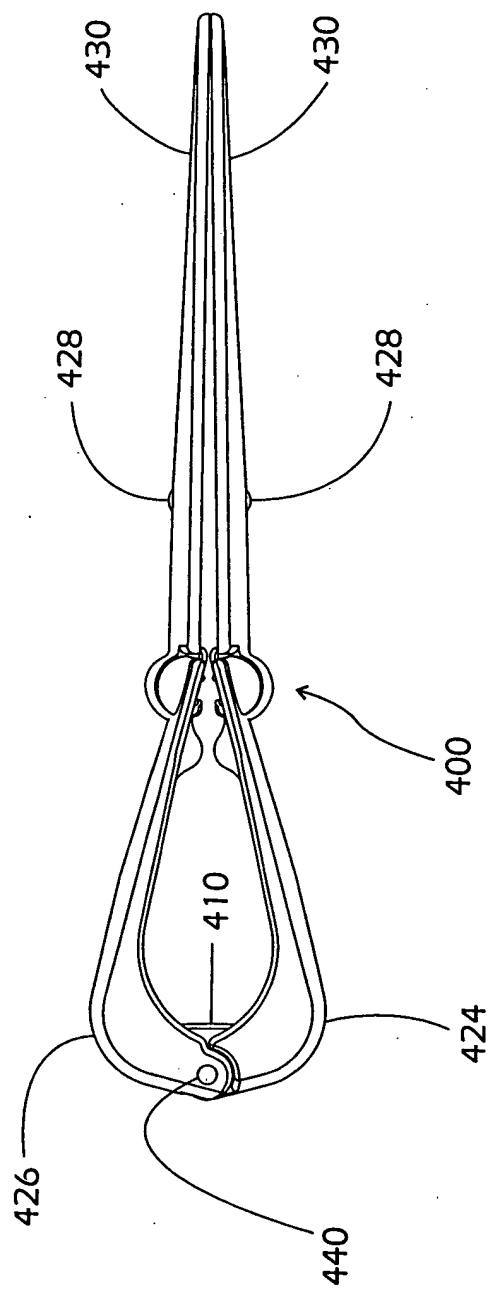


FIG. 21

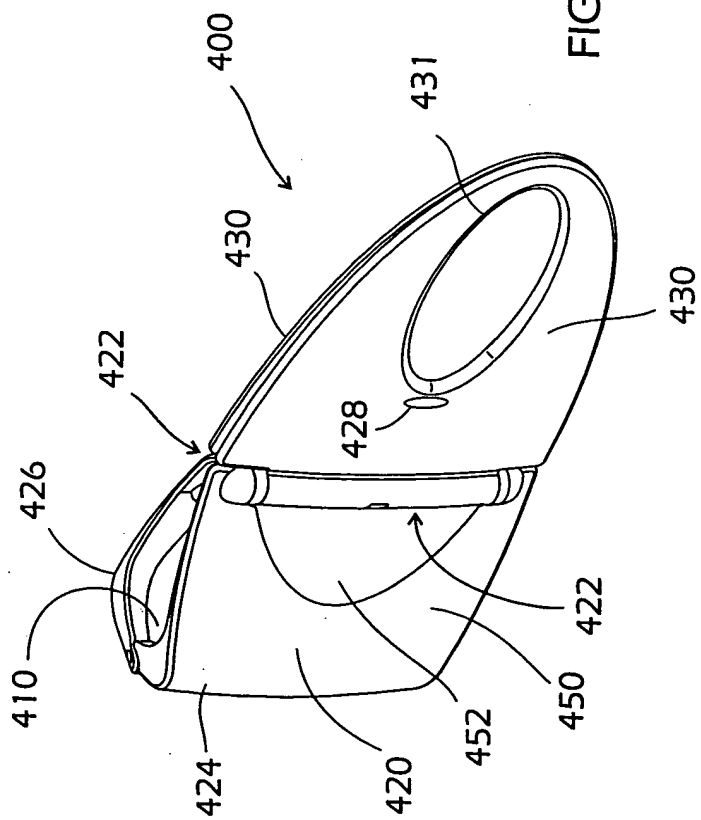


FIG. 17

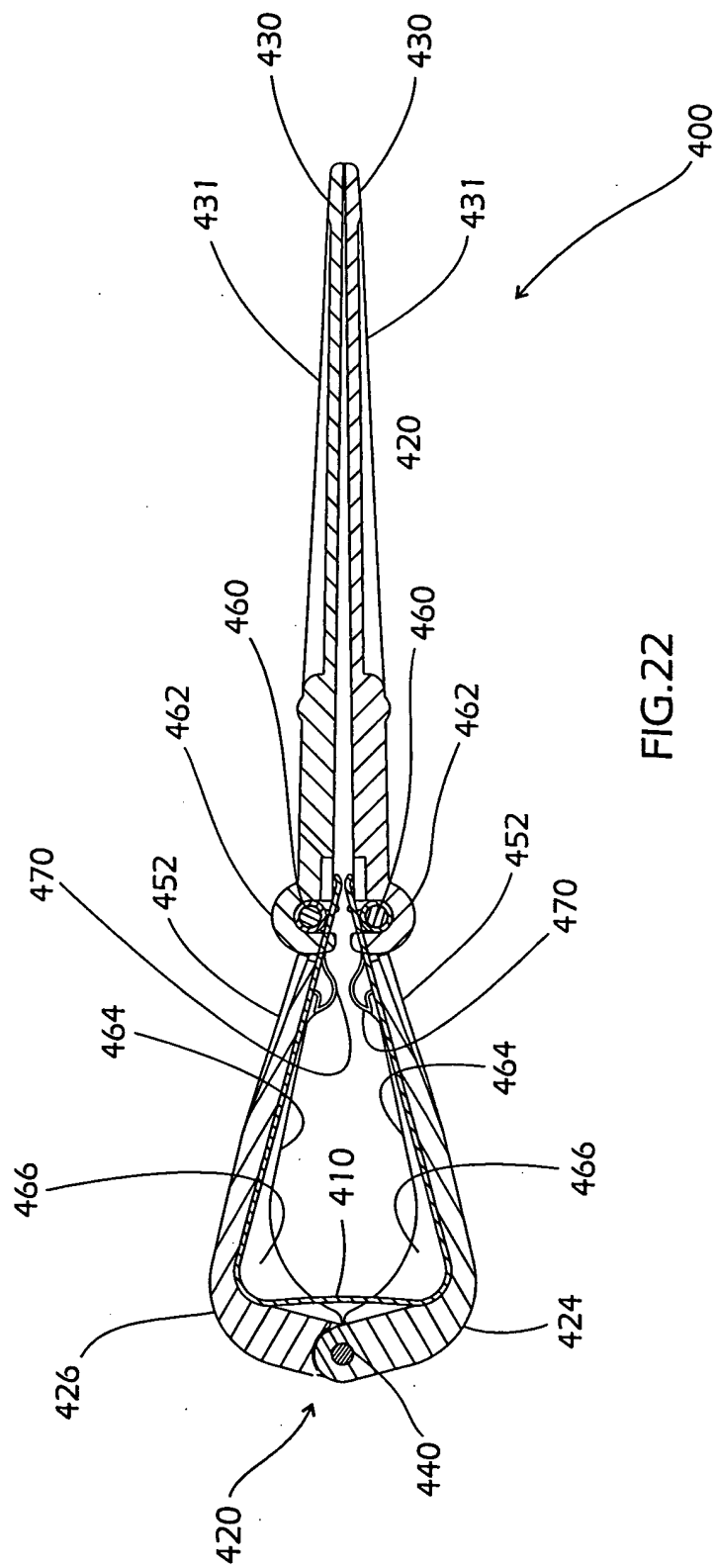
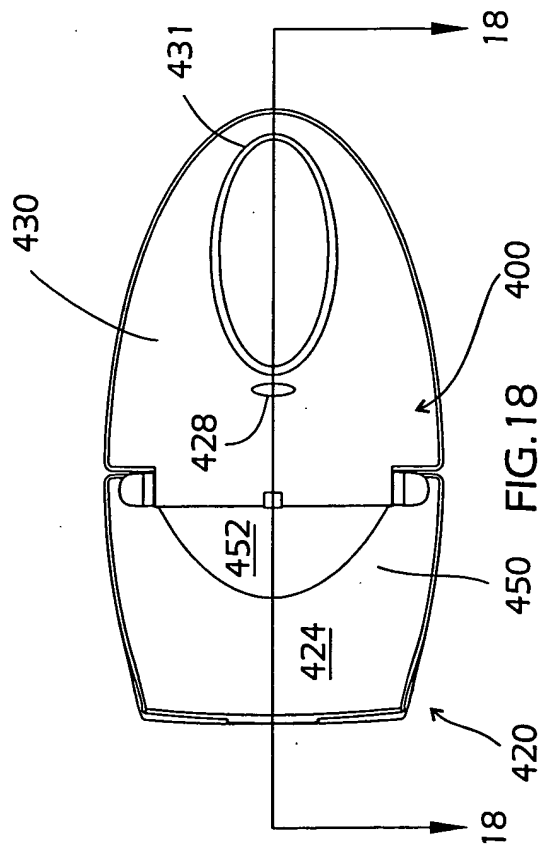


FIG.19

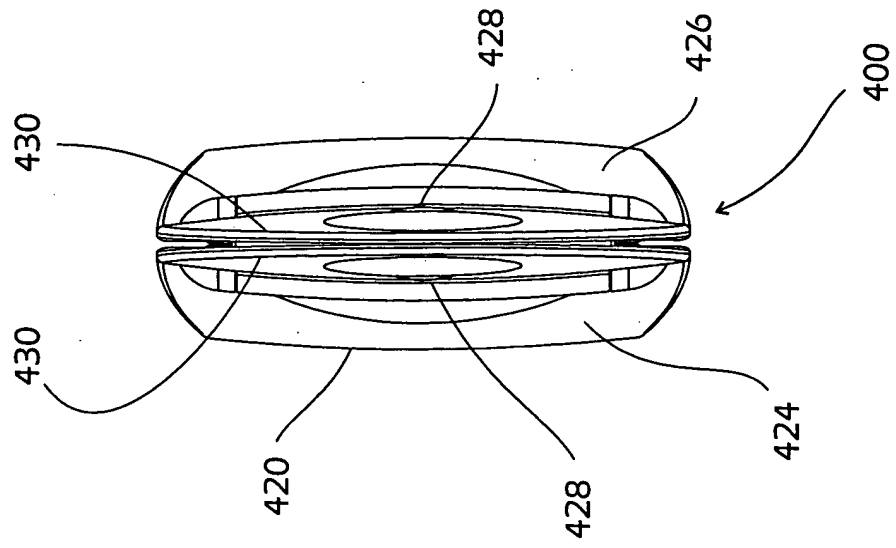
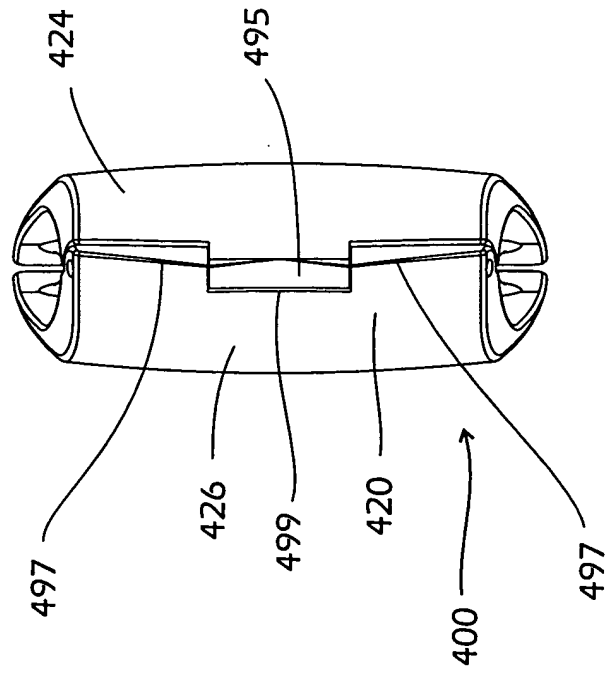


FIG.20



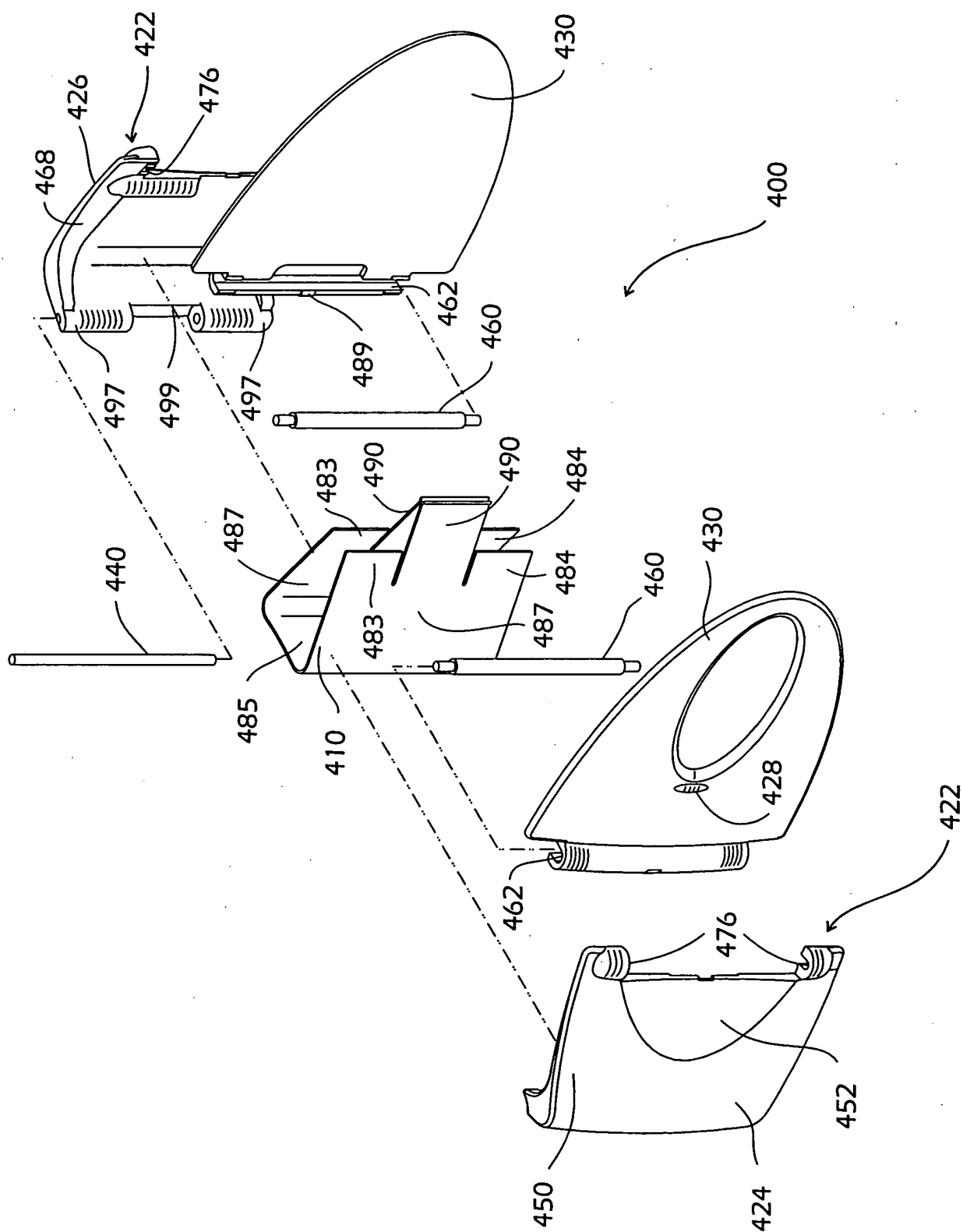


FIG. 25

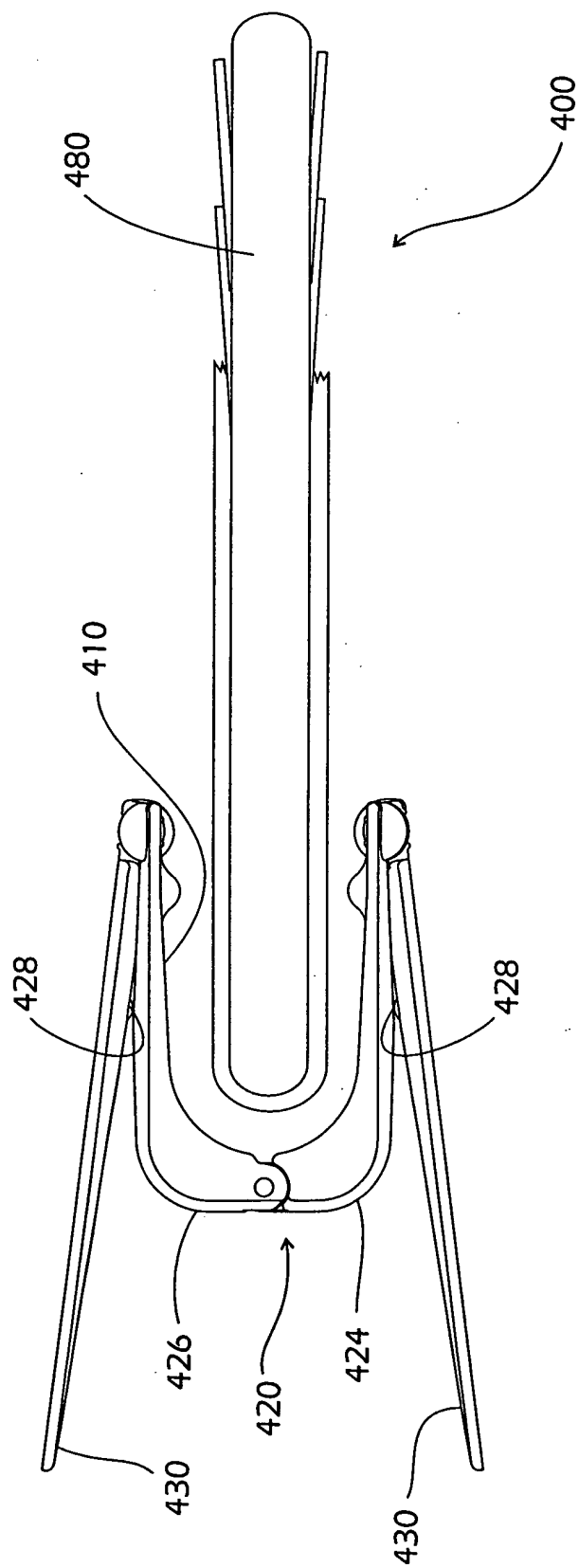


FIG. 26

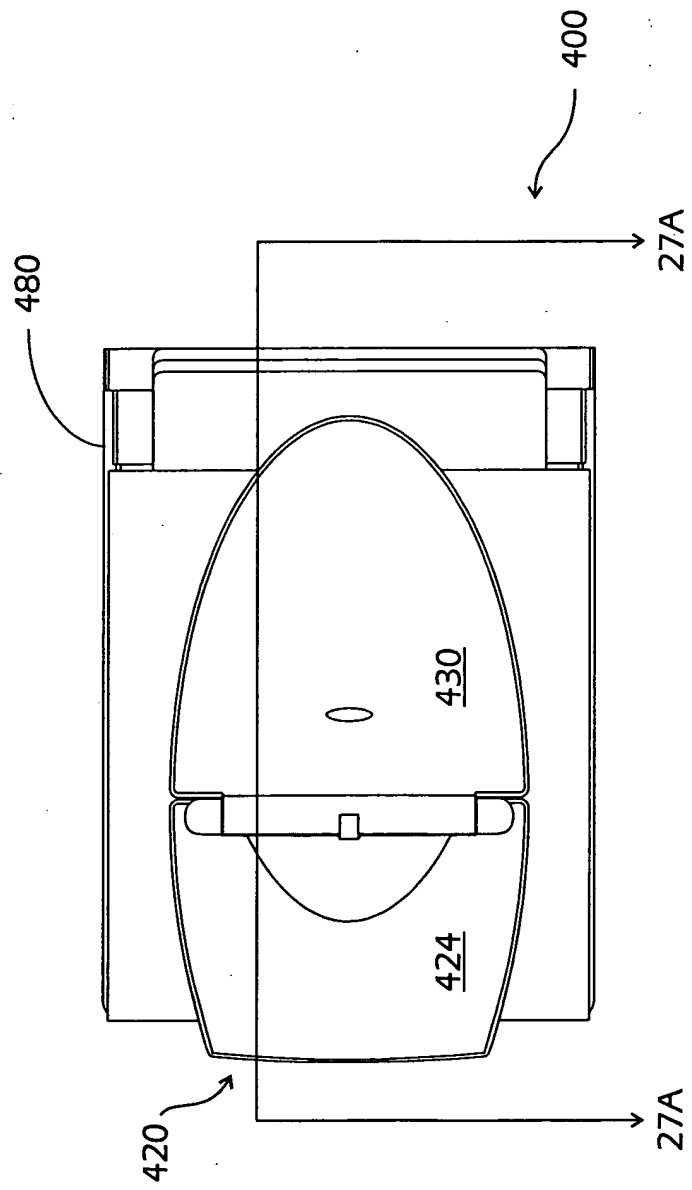


FIG. 27A

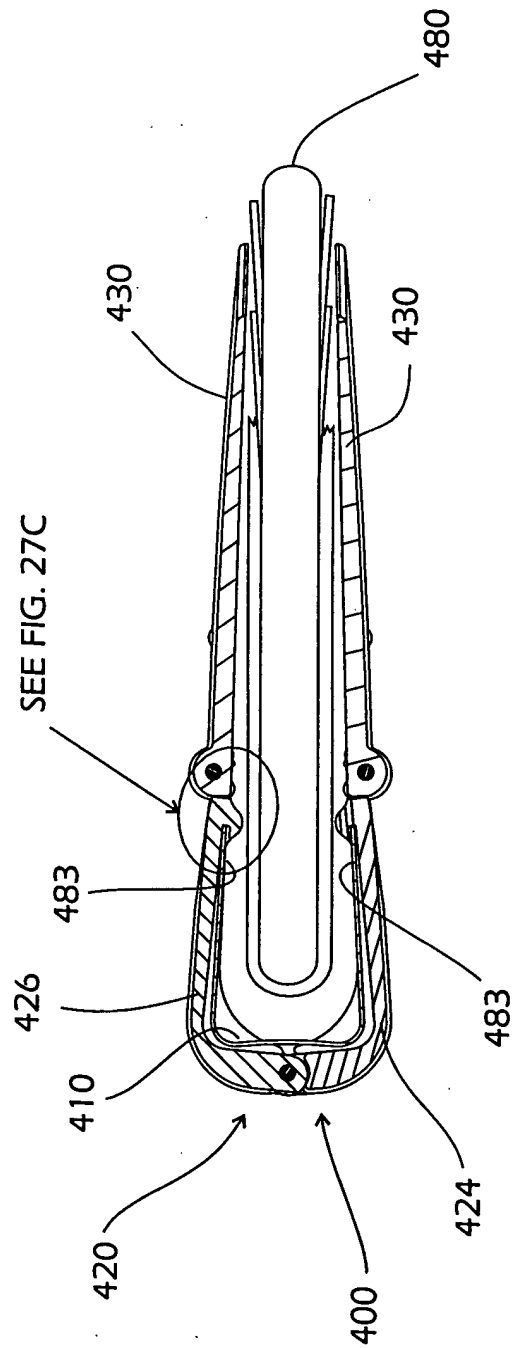


FIG. 27B

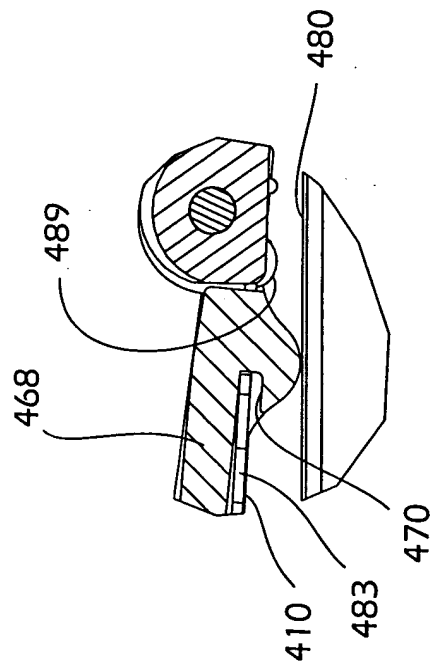


FIG. 27C

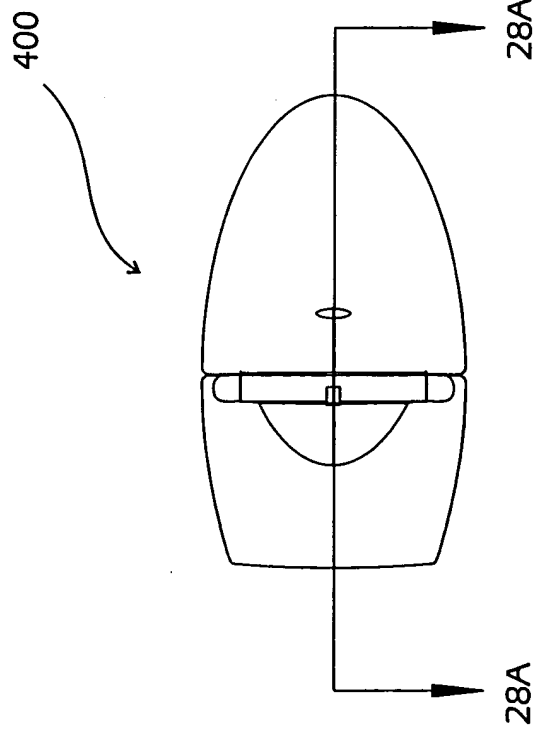
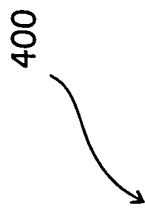


FIG. 28A



SEE FIG. 28C

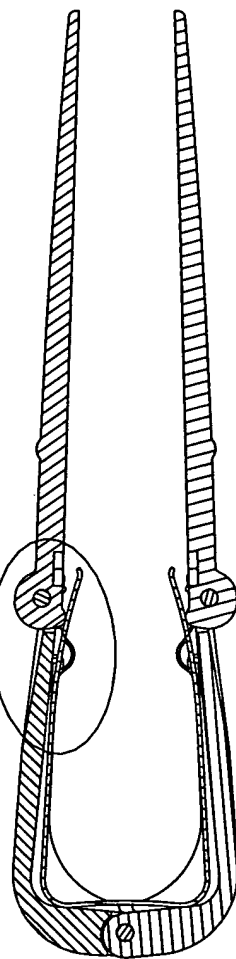


FIG. 28B

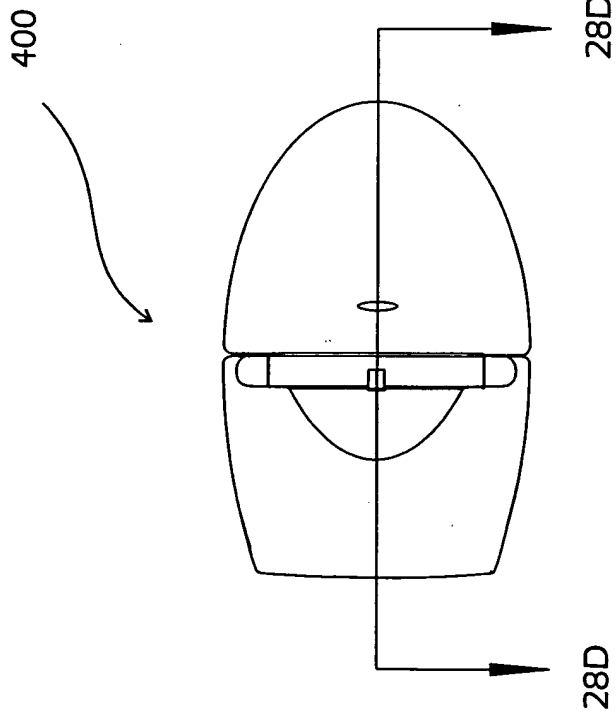
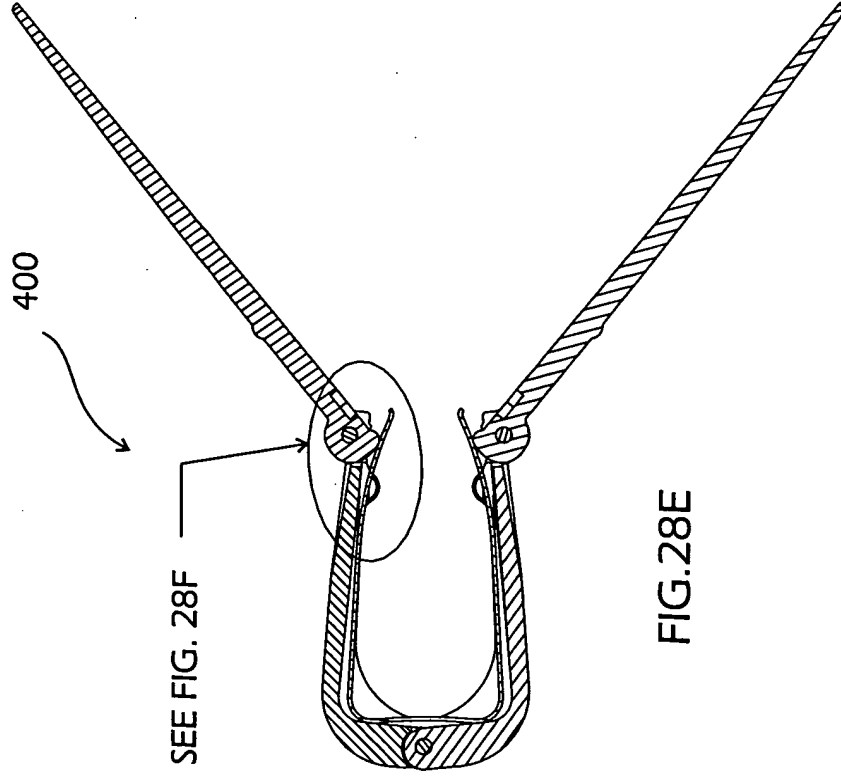
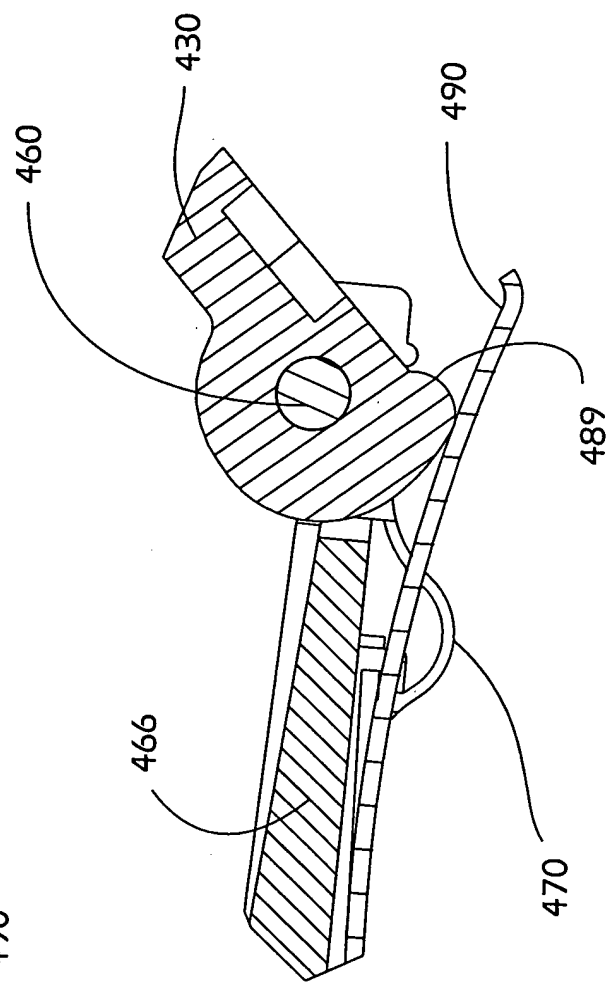
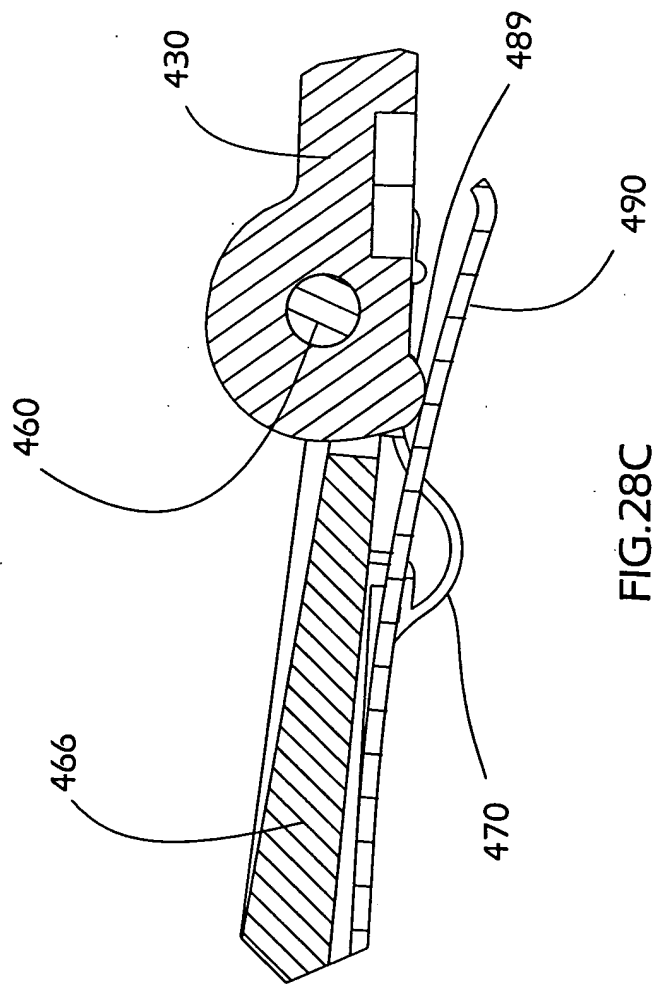


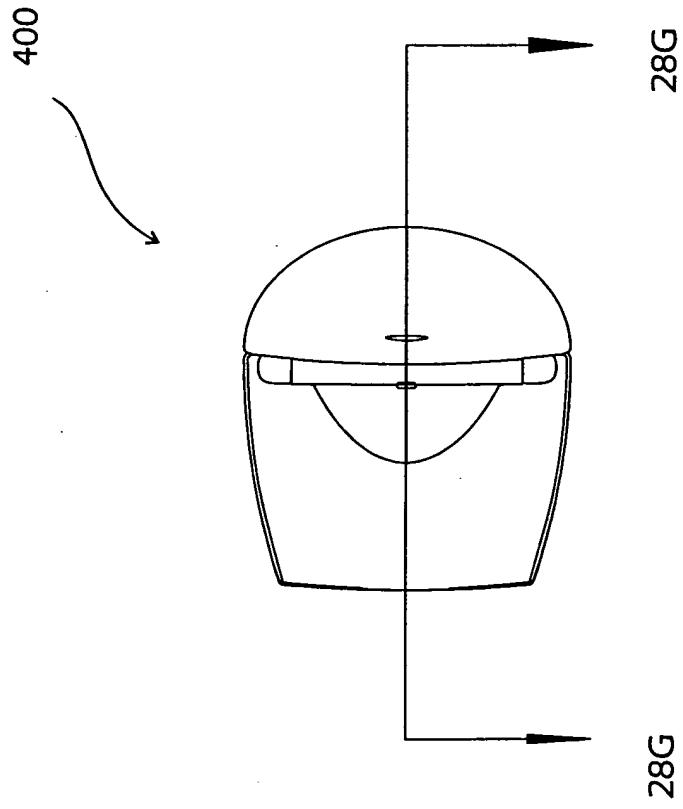
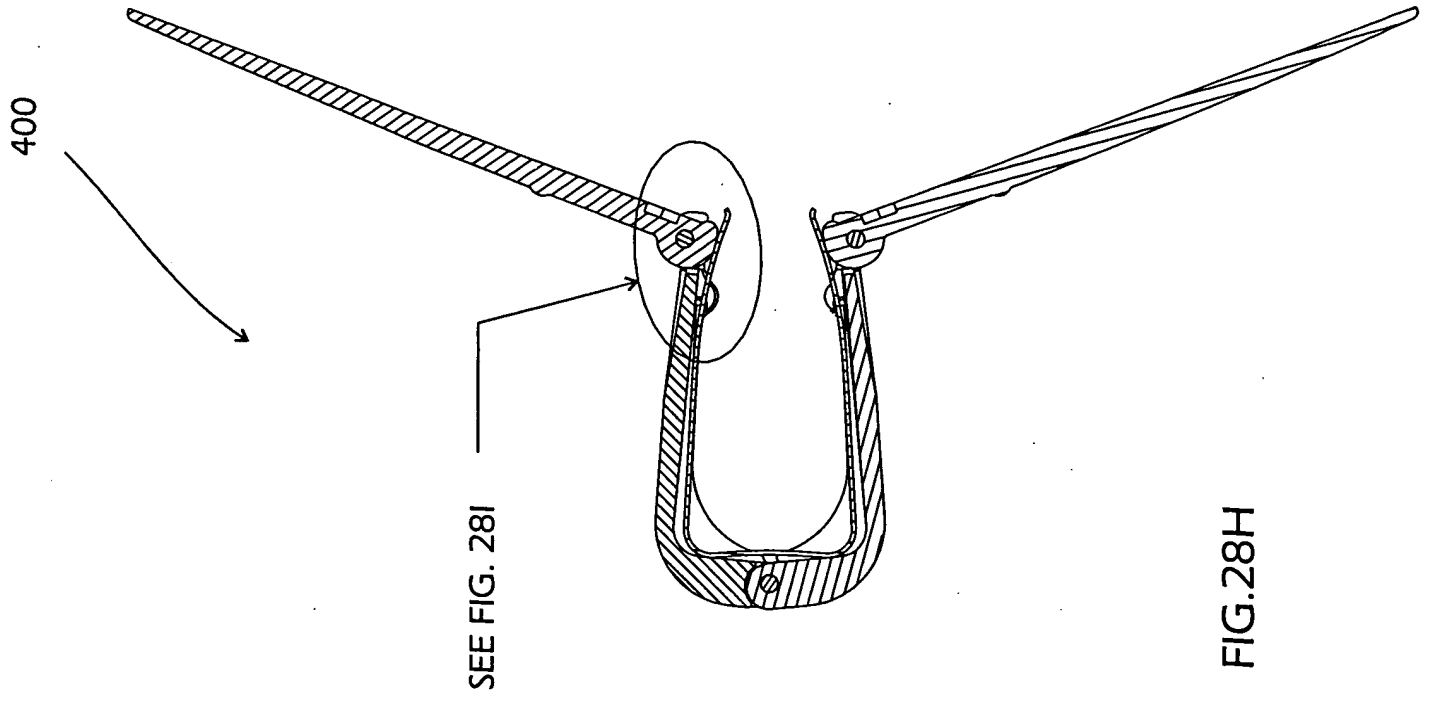
FIG. 28D



SEE FIG. 28F

FIG. 28E





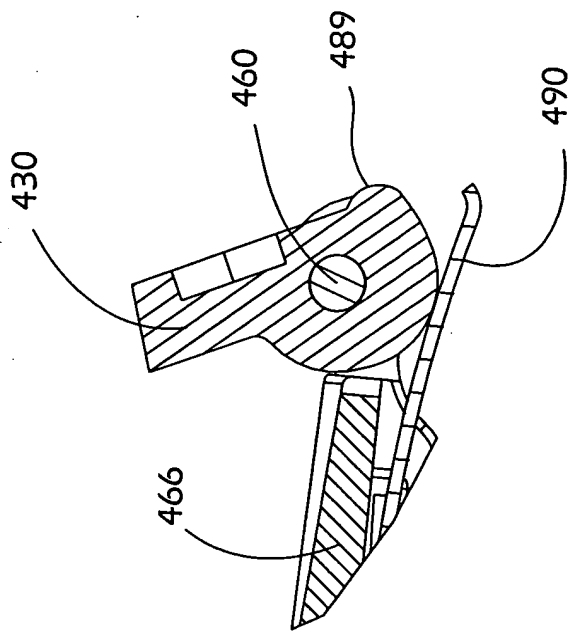


FIG. 28L

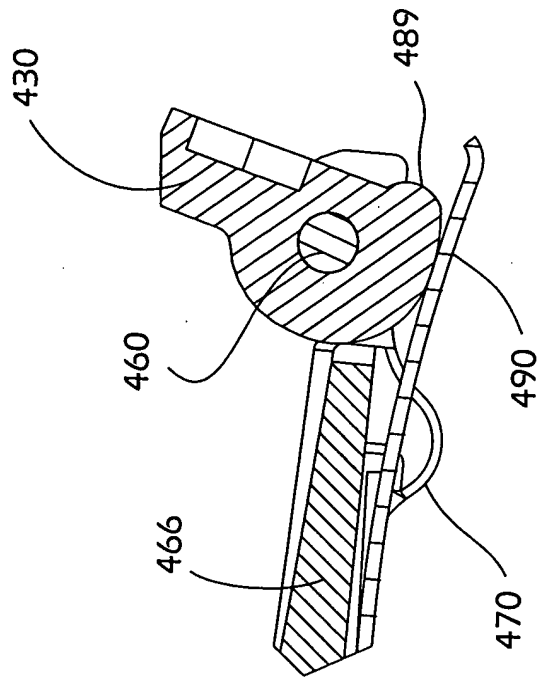


FIG. 28I

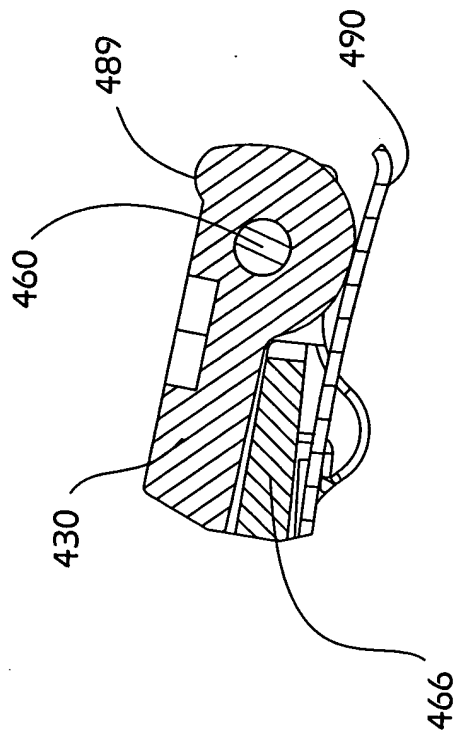


FIG. 28O

400

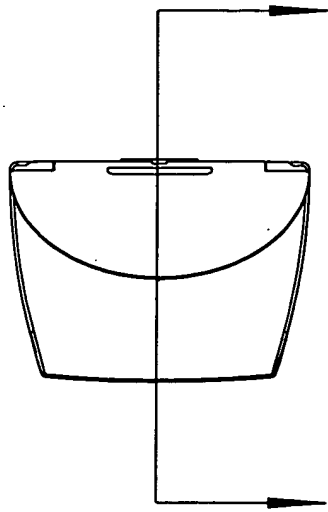
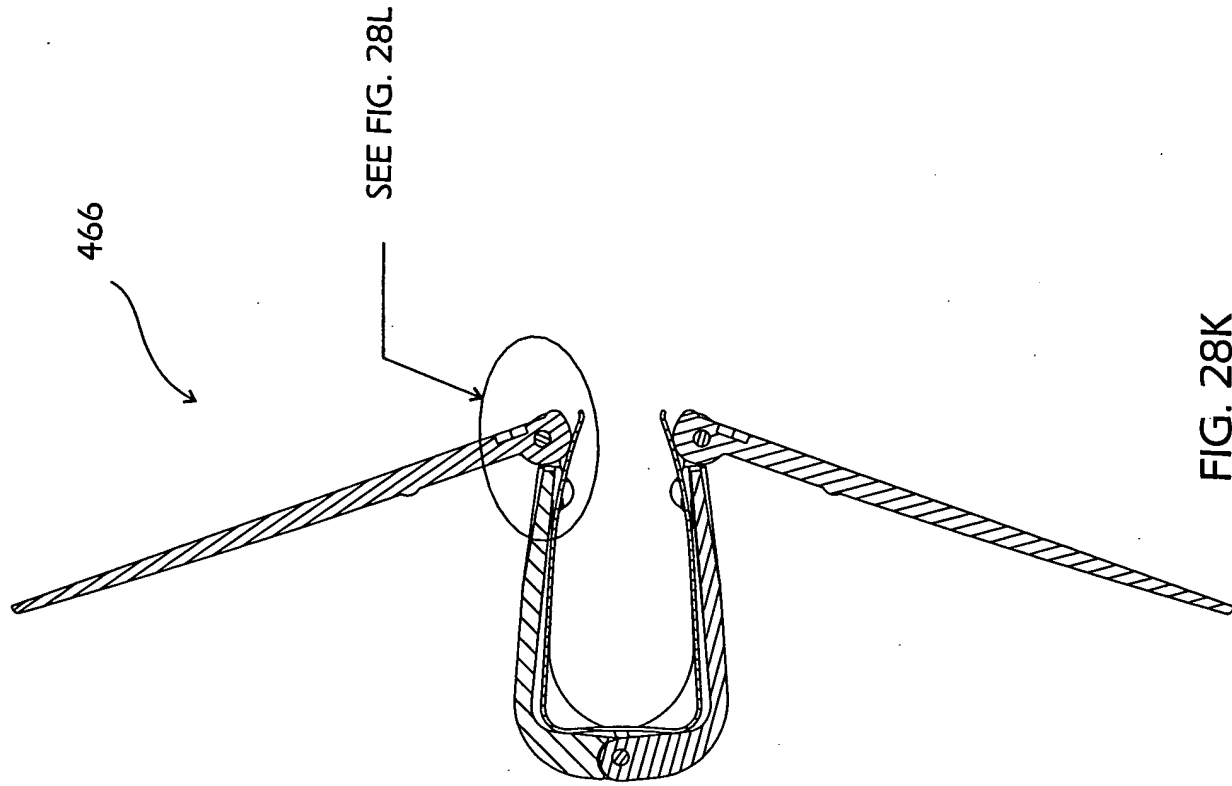


FIG. 28J



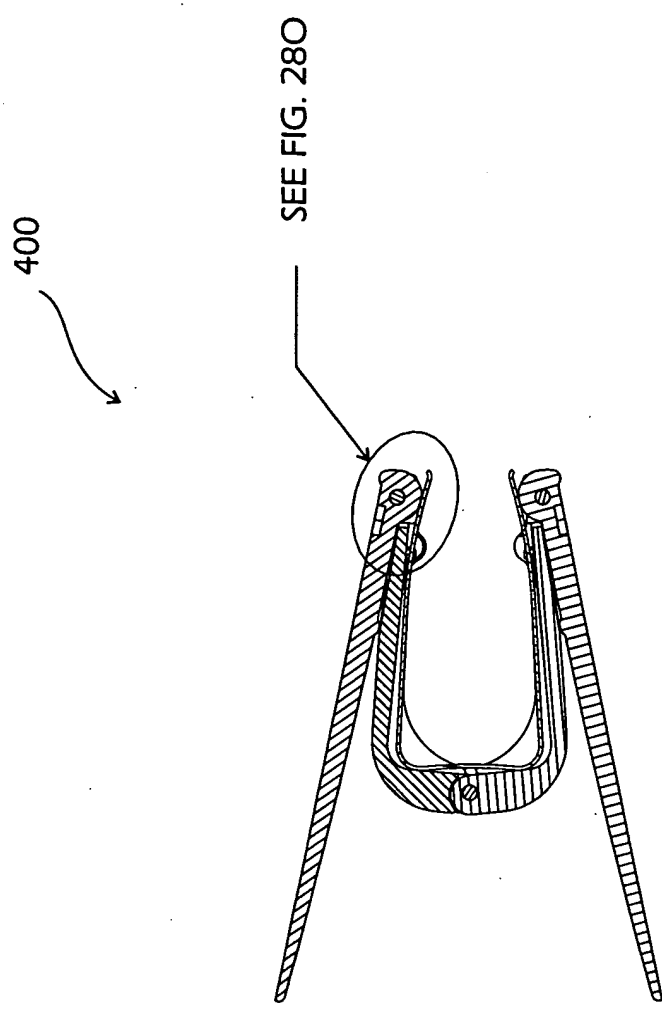


FIG. 28N

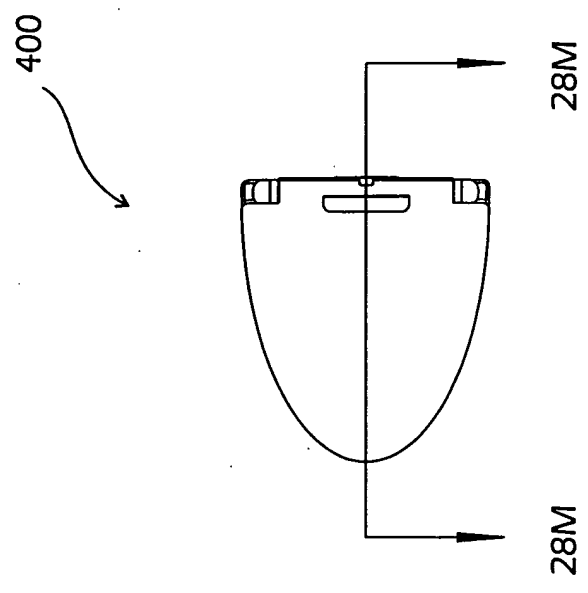


FIG. 28M

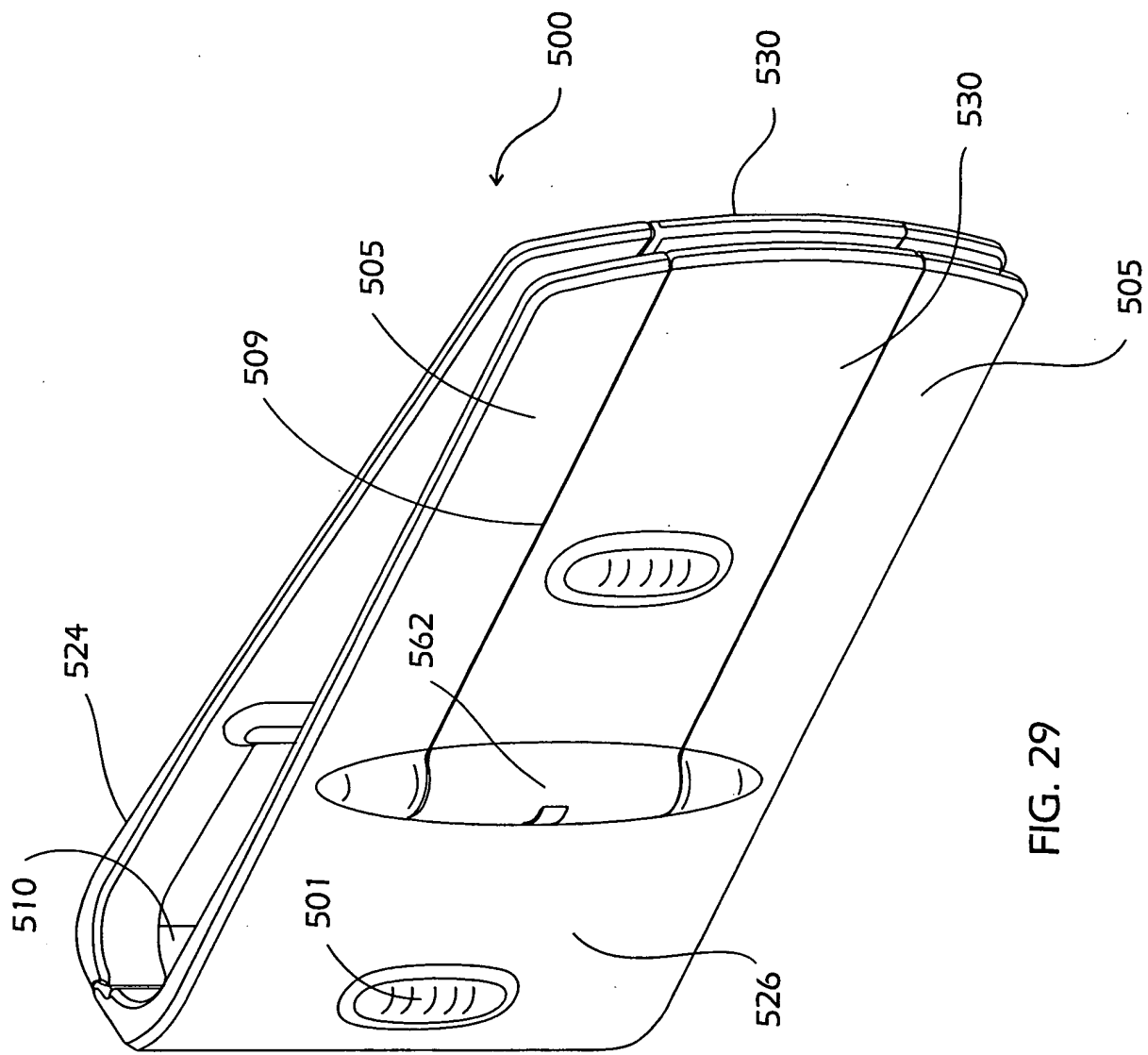
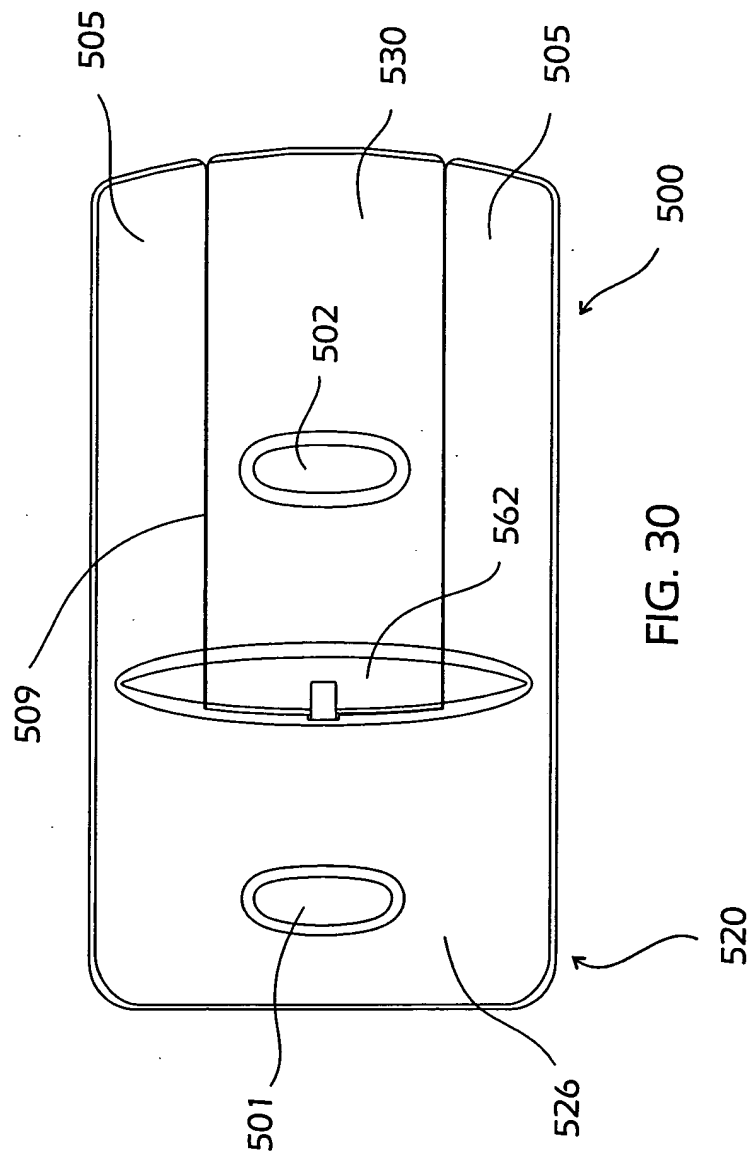
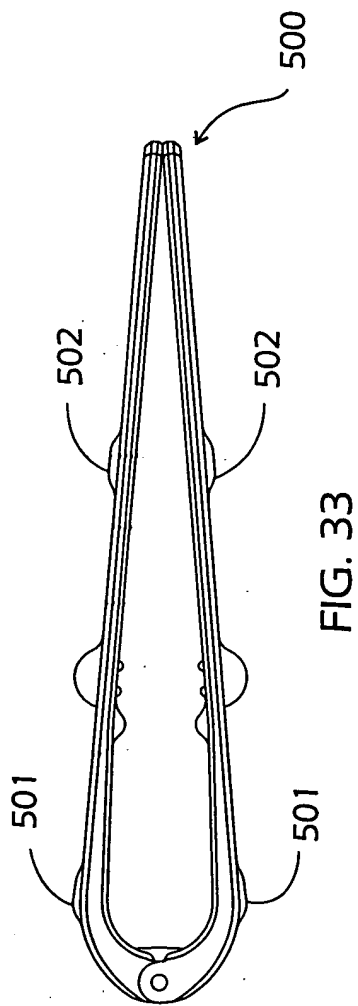


FIG. 29



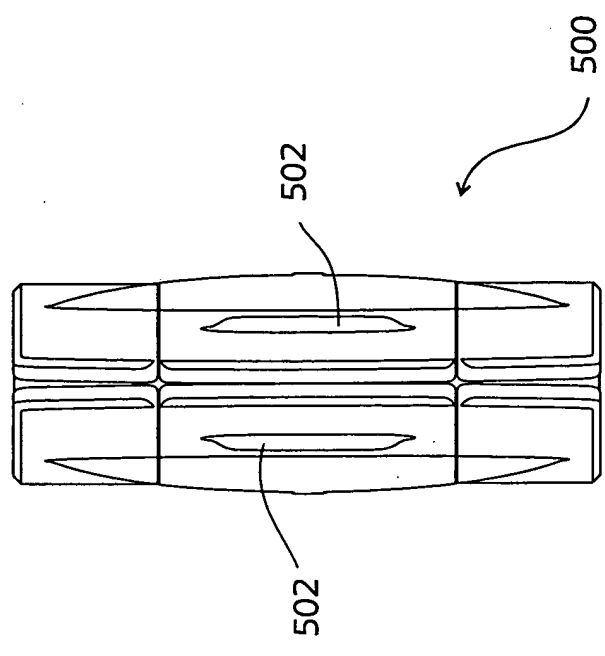


FIG. 31

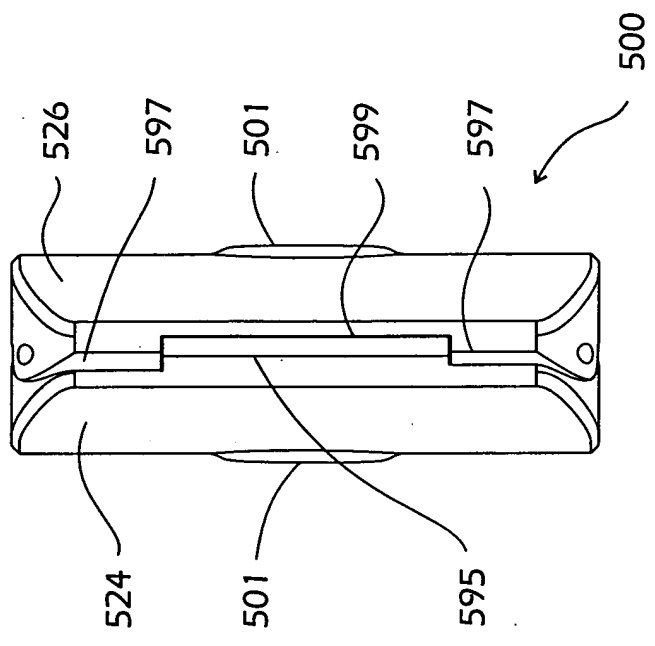
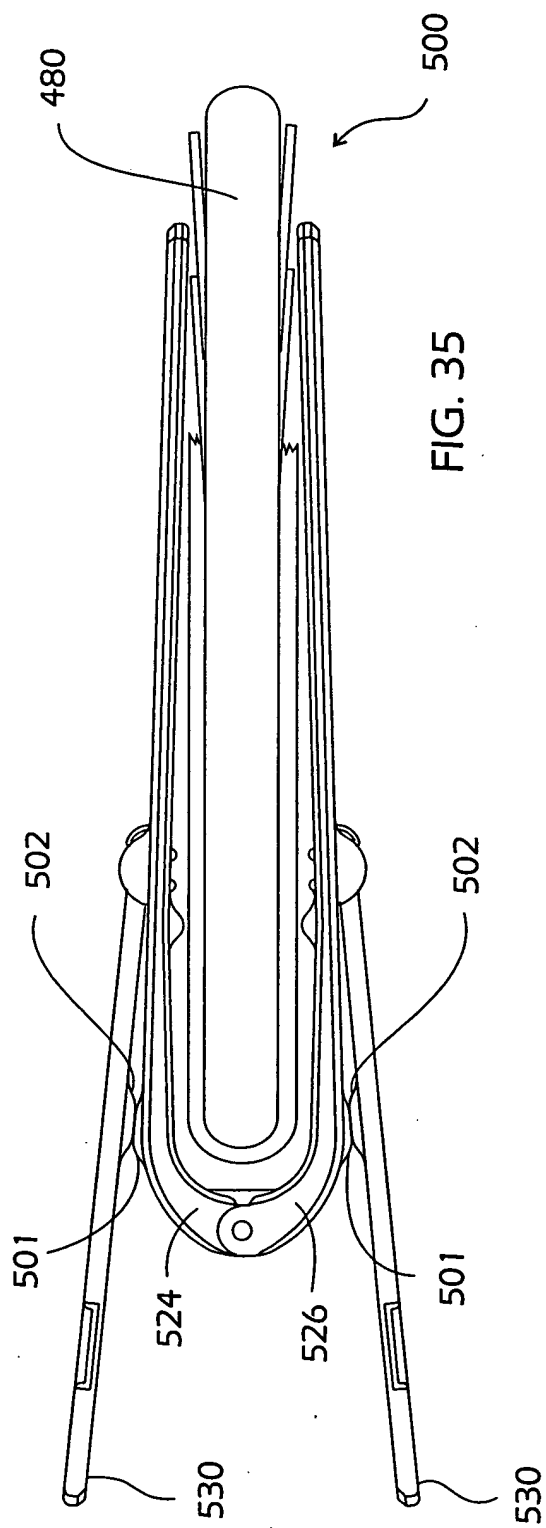
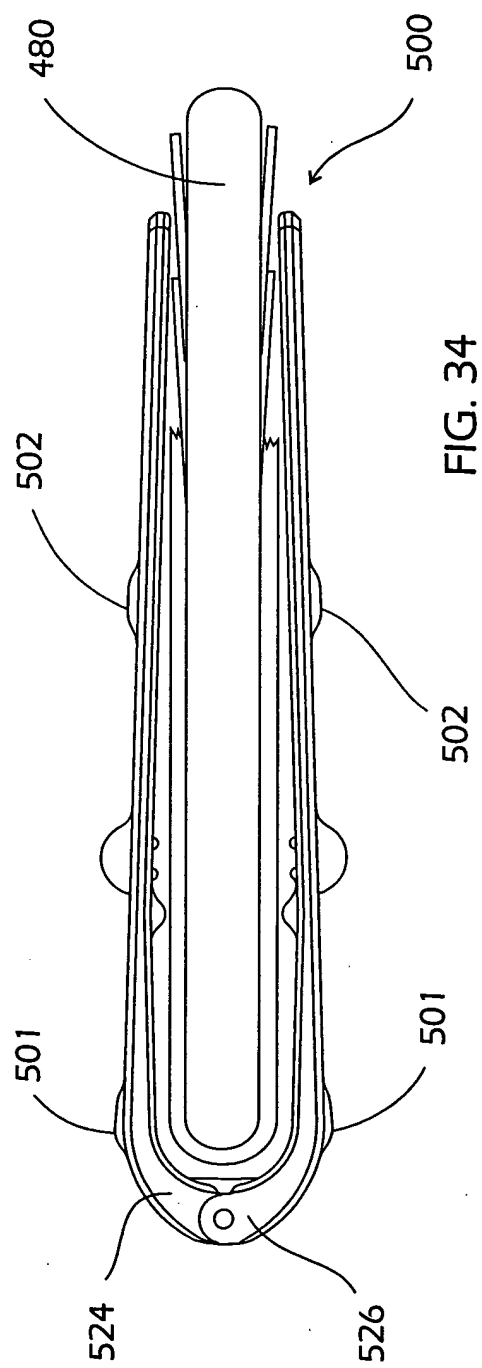


FIG. 32



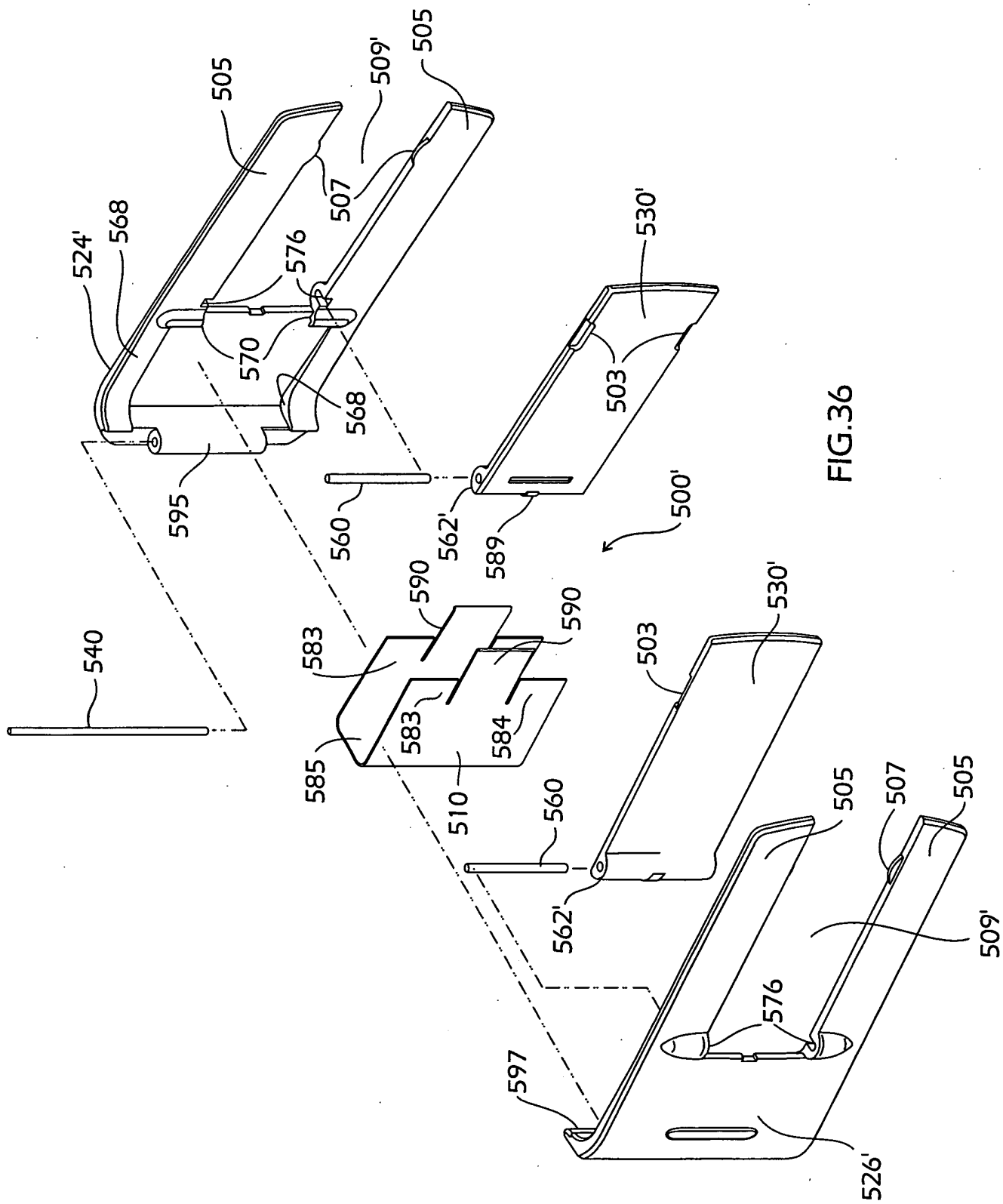


FIG. 36

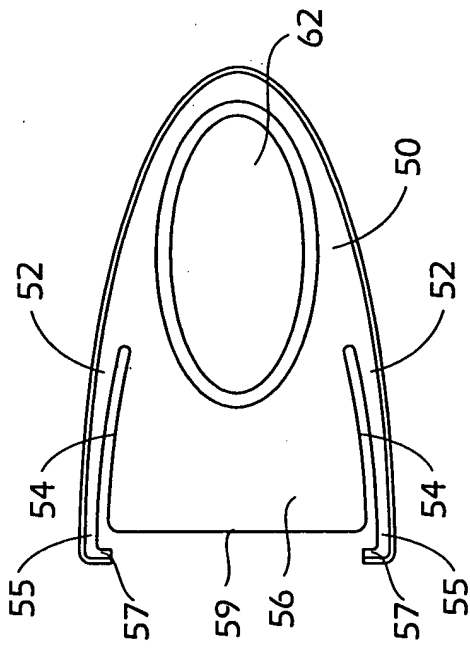


FIG. 37

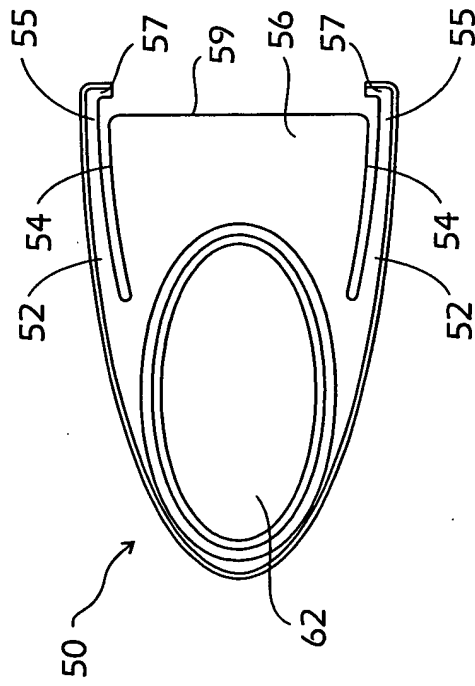


FIG. 38

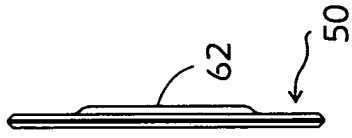


FIG. 39

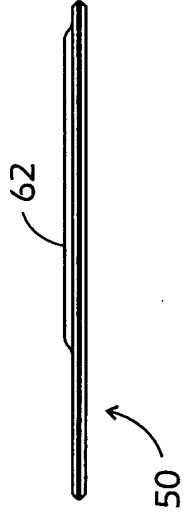


FIG. 40

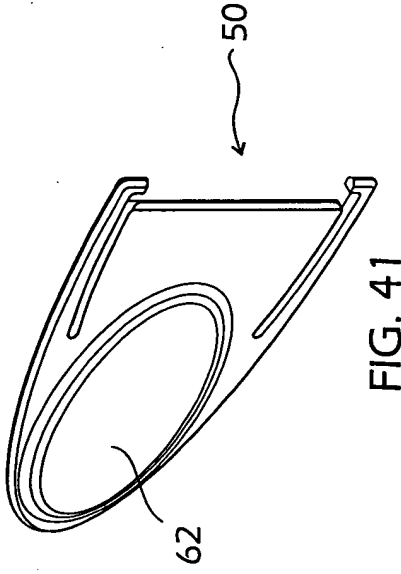


FIG. 41

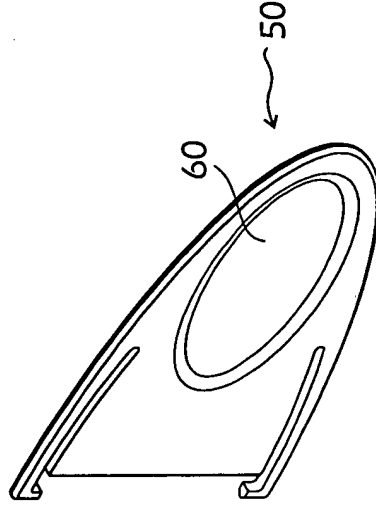


FIG. 42

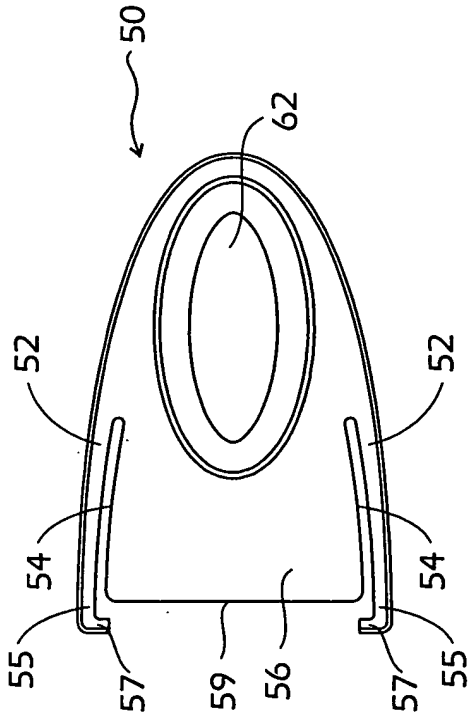


FIG. 43

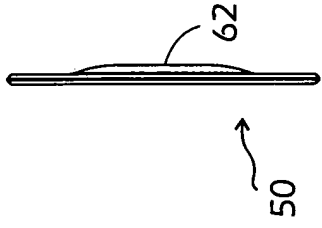


FIG. 45

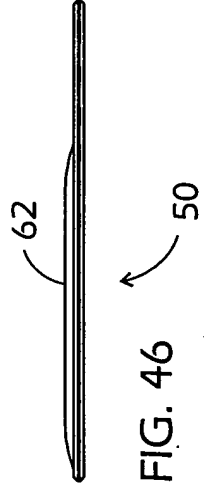


FIG. 46

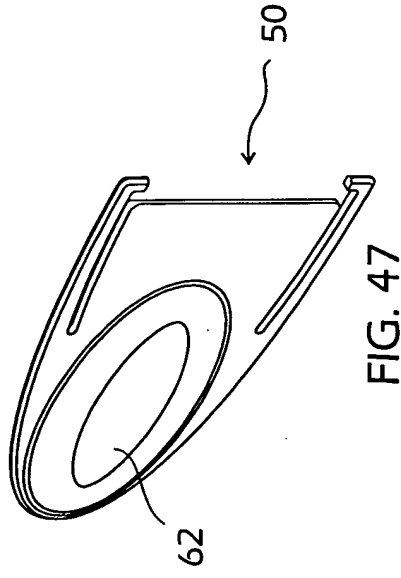


FIG. 47

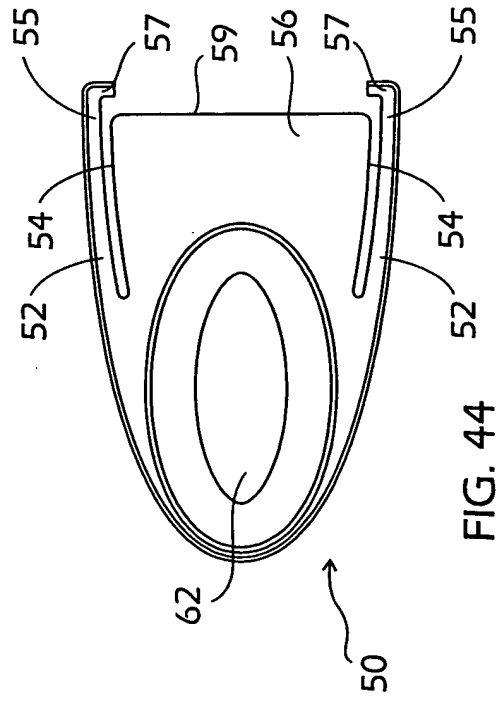


FIG. 44

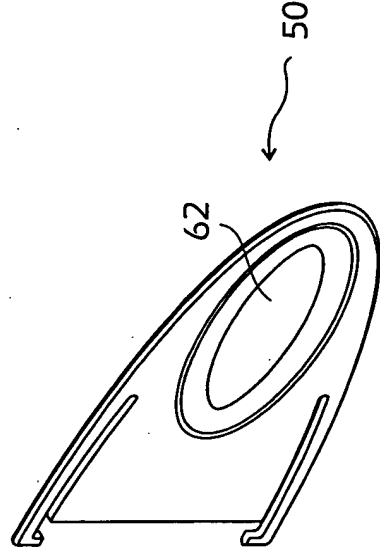


FIG. 48

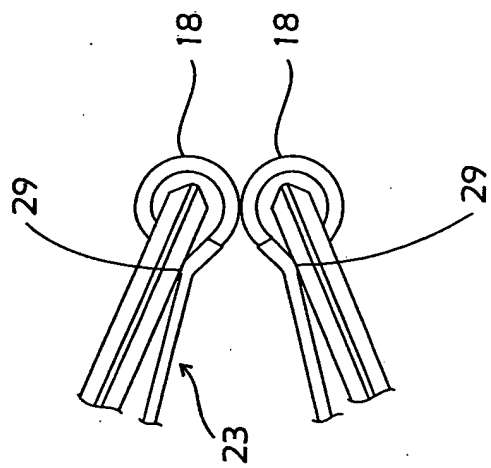
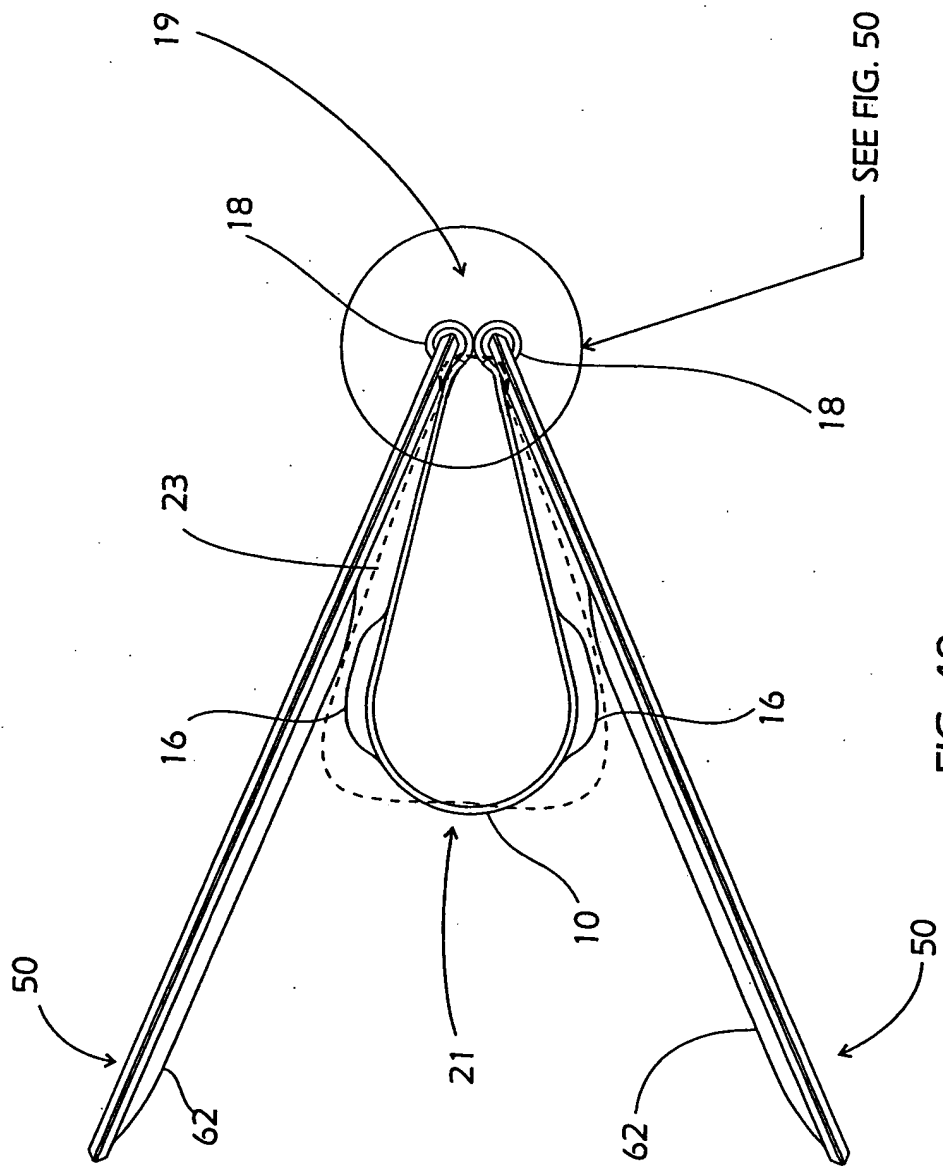


FIG. 50

FIG. 49

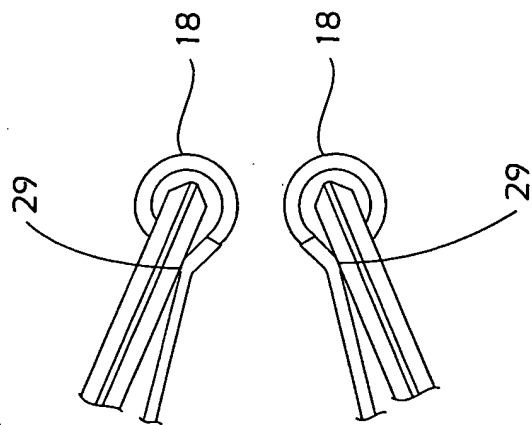
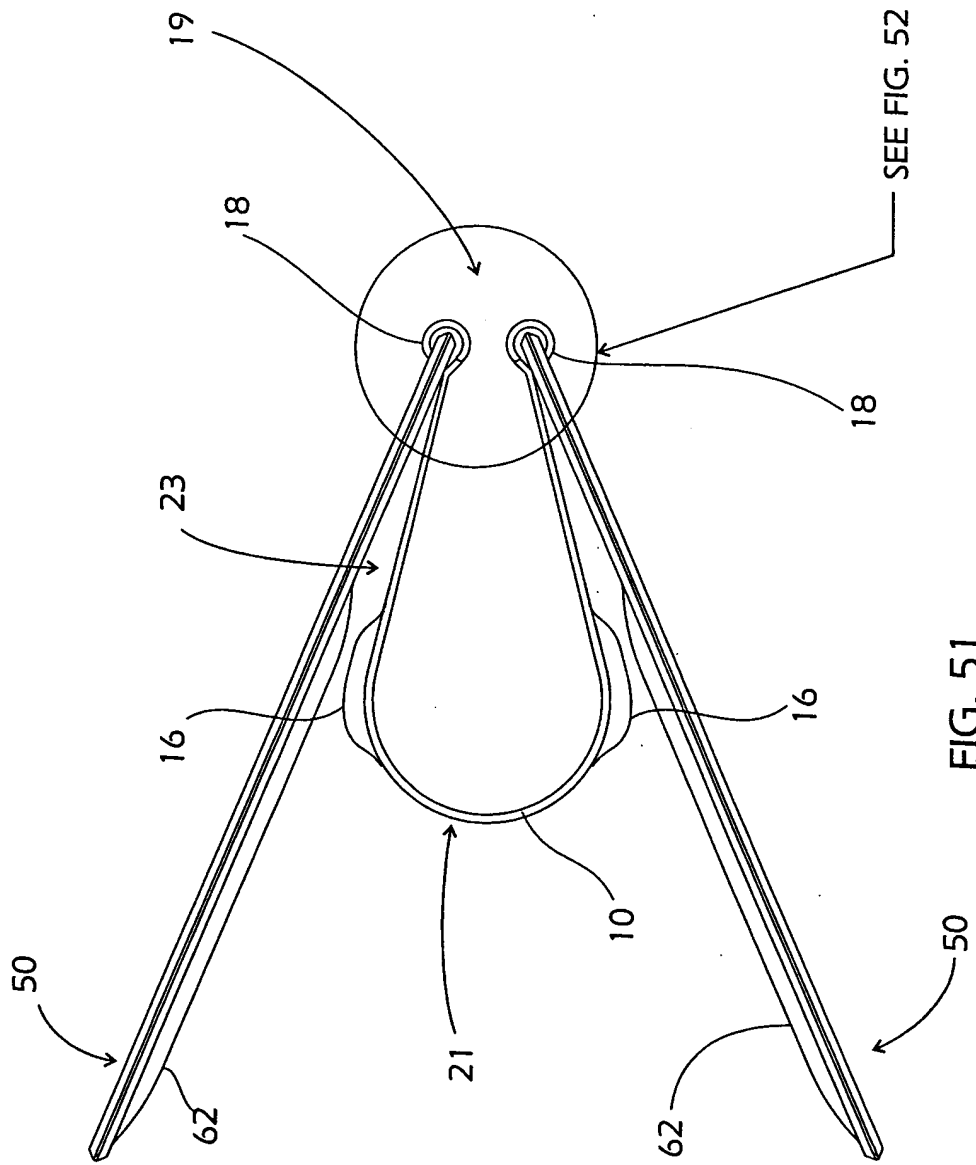
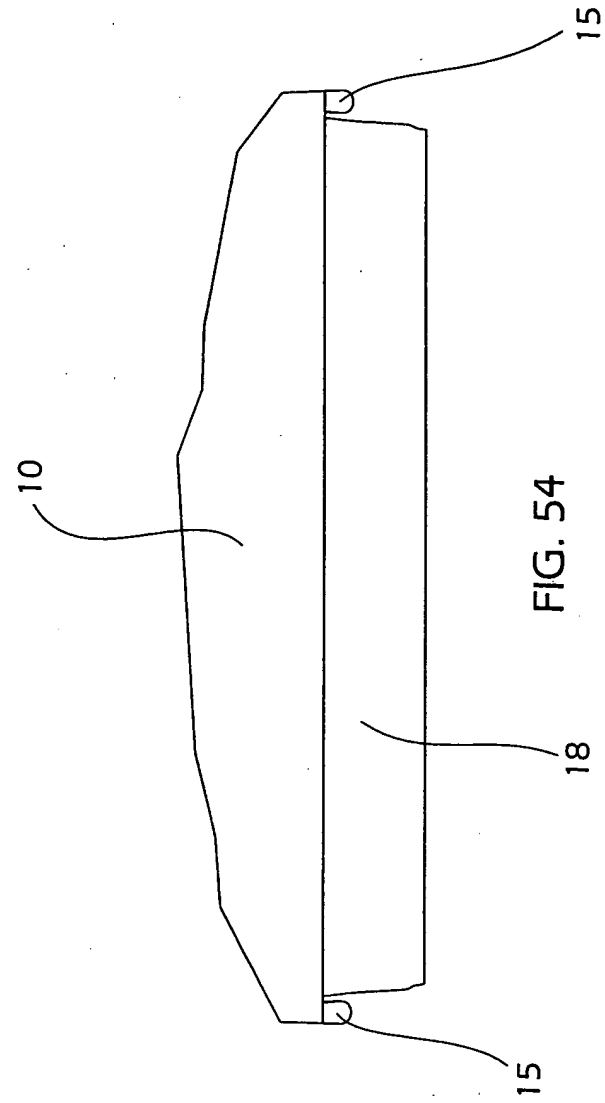
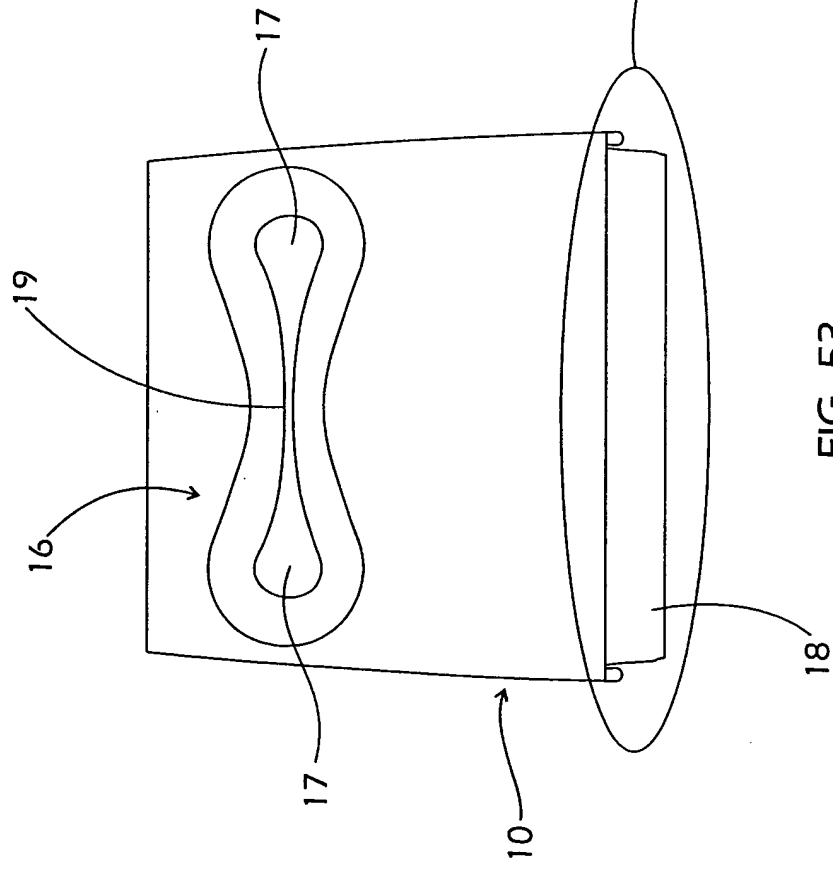


FIG. 52



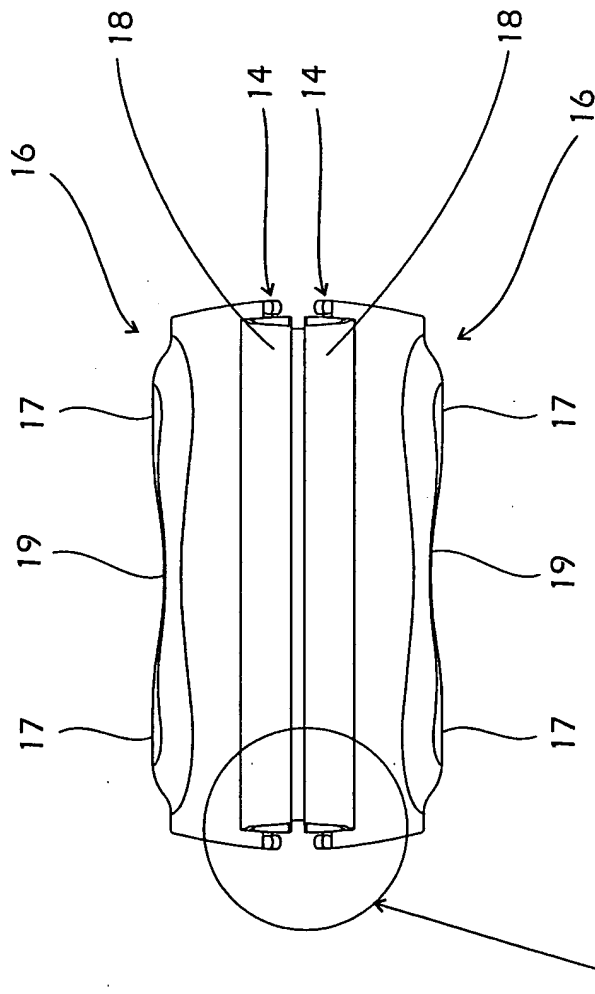


FIG. 55

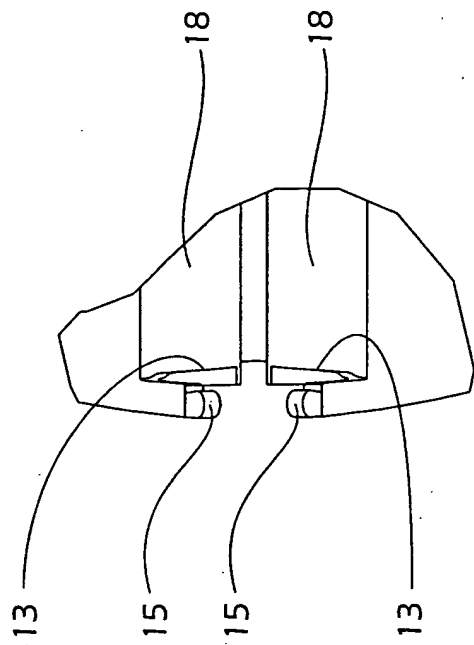


FIG. 56

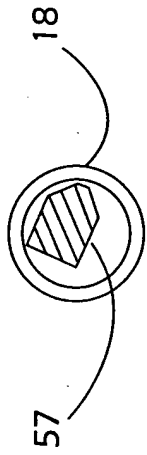


FIG. 57A

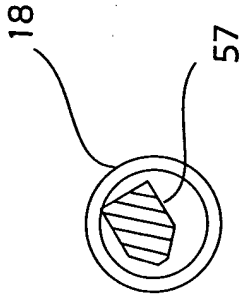


FIG. 57C

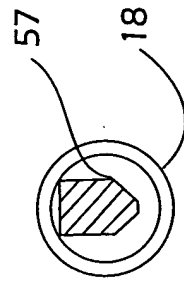


FIG. 57B

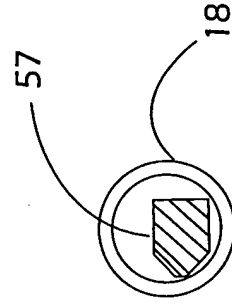


FIG. 57D

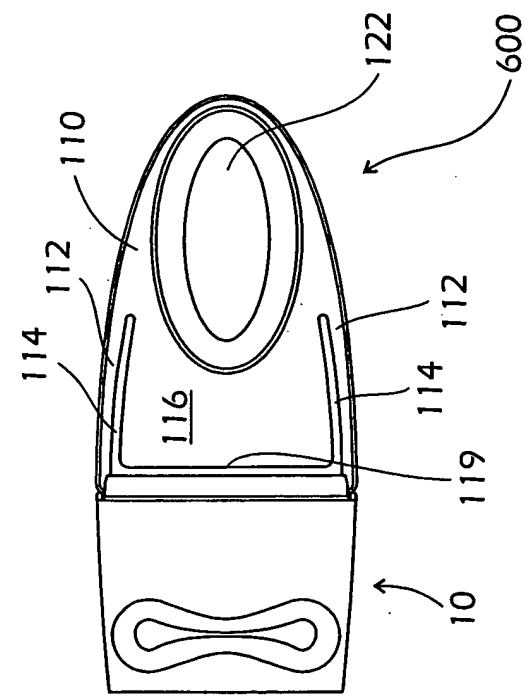


FIG. 59

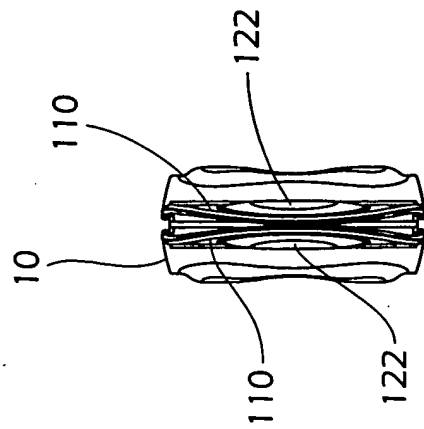


FIG. 60

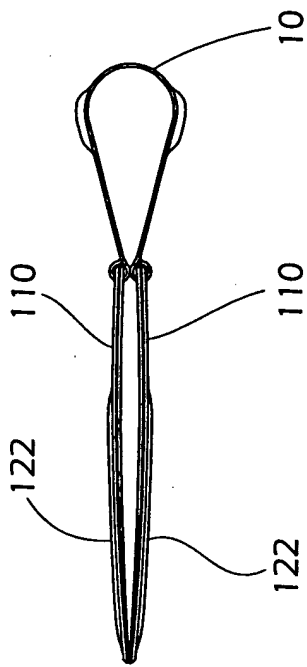


FIG. 62

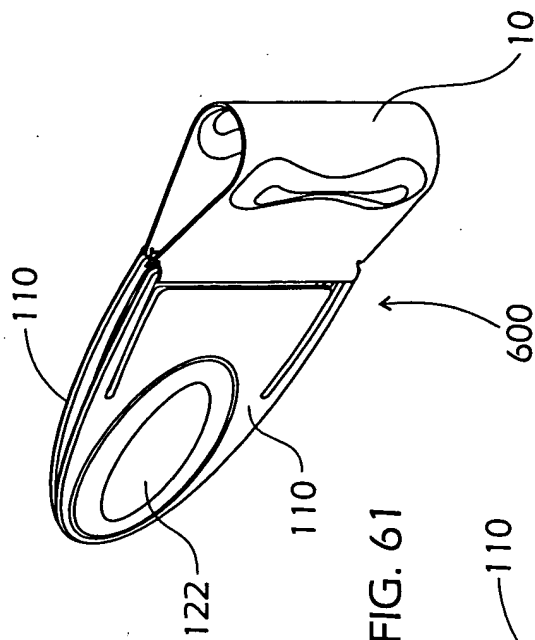


FIG. 61

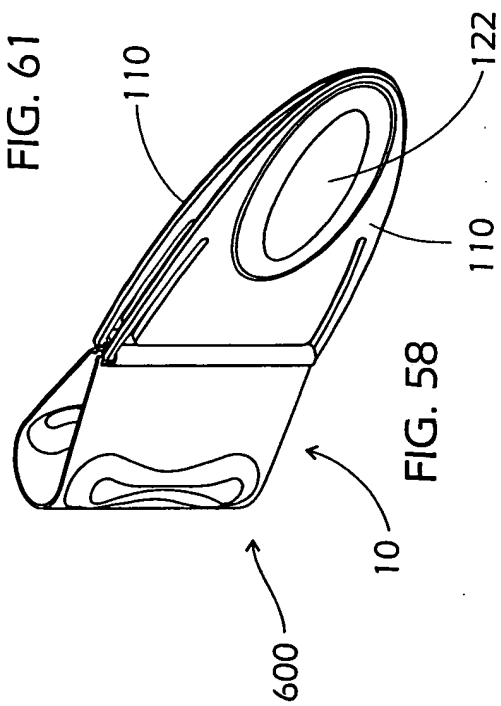


FIG. 58

EXHIBIT 2

Customer Copy
Label 11-F June 2002



EV 414834252 US



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE®

Post Office To Addressee

ORIGIN (POSTAL USE ONLY)

PO ZIP Code 5879	Day of Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Next <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Second	Flat Rate Envelope <input type="checkbox"/>
Date in Mo. Day Year 3 29 2000	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Noon <input type="checkbox"/> 3 PM	Postage \$
Time in <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM	Military <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Day <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Day	Return Receipt Fee
Weight lbs. ozs. 8	Int'l Alpha Country Code	COD Fee Insurance Fee
No Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday	Acceptance Clerk Initials	Total Postage & Fees \$17.05

DELIVERY (POSTAL USE ONLY)

Delivery Attempt	Time	Employee Signature
Mo. Day	<input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM	
Delivery Attempt	Time	Employee Signature
Mo. Day	<input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM	
Delivery Date	Time	Employee Signature
Mo. Day	<input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM	
<input type="checkbox"/> WAIVER OF SIGNATURE (Domestic Only) Additional merchandise insurance (if you wish) waiver of signature is requested. (If delivery to be made without obtaining signature of addressee or addressee's agent, (1) delivery employee judges that article can be left in secure location and (2) notes that delivery employee's signature constitutes valid proof of delivery.		
NO DELIVERY <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday		

CUSTOMER USE ONLY

METHOD OF PAYMENT:
Express Mail Corporate Acct. No. X787786

Federal Agency Acct. No. or
Postal Service Acct. No.

FROM: (PLEASE PRINT)

PHONE

512 536-3031

MARK T. GARRETT

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 CONGRESS AVE STE 2400
AUSTIN TX 78701-3271

TO: (PLEASE PRINT)

PHONE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
PO BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA VA 22313-1450

UTXC:779US-10403741

ATTN: M.S. PATENT APPLICATION

PRESS HARD.

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FOR PICKUP OR TRACKING CALL 1-800-222-1811 www.usps.com



Please indicate receipt of the below-identified paper:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Application For:	Utility	Priority Date: March 28, 2003
<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign priority already claimed		
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation	<input type="checkbox"/> CIP	<input type="checkbox"/> Divisional CPA <input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification: 23 Pages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawings: 5 Sheets	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Office Action Dated:		<input type="checkbox"/> Final Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Utility Transmittal and postcard		
<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> Cert. of Timely Mailing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exp. Mail: EV 414834252 US

IDENTIFICATION OF APPLICATION

22141 U.S. PTO

10/811775


Serial No.: Unknown	
Title: Medica Devices and Related Methods	 032904
Applicant: Michael J. Wallace	Attorney: MTG
Client: U.T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center	F&J File No.: UTXC:779US
Mailed: 3/29/04	Filed: Due Date:

EXHIBIT 3



EV 414866224 US



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE®

Customer Copy
Label 11-F June 2002

Post Office To Addressee

ORIGIN (POSTAL USE ONLY)

PO ZIP Code 74795	Day of Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Next <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Second	Flat Rate Envelope <input type="checkbox"/>
Date In Mo. 3 Day 29 Year 2003	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Noon <input type="checkbox"/> 3 PM	Postage \$
Time In <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM	Military <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Day <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Day	Return Receipt Fee
Weight lbs. 8 ozs.	Int'l Alpha Country Code	COD Fee Insurance Fee
No Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday	Acceptance Clerk Initials	Total Postage & Fees \$ 13.05

DELIVERY (POSTAL USE ONLY)

Delivery Attempt	Time	Employee Signature
Mo. Day	<input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM	
Delivery Attempt	Time	Employee Signature
Mo. Day	<input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM	
Delivery Date	Time	Employee Signature
Mo. Day	<input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM	
<input type="checkbox"/> WAIVER OF SIGNATURE (Domestic Only) Additional merchandise insurance is void if waiver of signature is requested. (With delivery to be made without obtaining signature of addressee or addressee's agent, if delivery employee judges that same can be made without signature of addressee or addressee's agent, it is authorized that delivery employee's signature constitute valid proof of delivery.)		
NO DELIVERY <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday		

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EXHIBIT 4

Please indicate receipt of the below-identified paper:

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Application For:		Priority Date: March 28, 2003	
<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign priority already claimed.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation	<input type="checkbox"/> CIP	<input type="checkbox"/> Divisional	CPA <input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification: 30 Pages:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawings: 36 Sheets	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Office Action Dated:		<input type="checkbox"/> Final Rejection	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Request (6 sheets); Claims (7 sheets); Abstract (1 sheet); Fee Calc Sheet			
<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Enclosed		<input type="checkbox"/> Cert. of Timely Mailing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exp. Mail: EV414866215US

IDENTIFICATION OF APPLICATION

Serial No.:

Title: DEVICES FOR HOLDING PAPER, CARDS, AND WALLETS

PCT/US 04/09493

Applicant: beza L.P. et al.

Attorney: MTG

Client: Chip Thomson

F&J File No.: THMC:015WO

Mailed: 03/29/2004

Filed:

Due Date: 3/29/2004



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EXHIBIT 5





EV 414834354 US



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Label 11-F June 2002

Post Office To Addressee

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PO ZIP Code 78738	Day of Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Next <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Second	Flat Rate Envelope <input type="checkbox"/>
Date In Mo. Day Year 7 14 2000	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 Noon <input type="checkbox"/> 3 PM	Postage \$
Time <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM	Military <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Day <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Day	Return Receipt Fee
Weight lbs. ozs. 14.9	Int'l Alpha Country Code	COD Fee Insurance Fee
No Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday	Acceptance Clerk Initials	Total Postage & Fees \$ 17.85

DELIVERY (POSTAL USE ONLY)

Delivery Attempt	Time <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM	Employee Signature
Mo. Day		
Delivery Attempt	Time <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM	Employee Signature
Mo. Day		
Delivery Date	Time <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM	Employee Signature
Mo. Day		
<input type="checkbox"/> WAIVER OF SIGNATURE (Domestic Only) Additional merchandise insurance is void if waiver of signature is requested. (With delivery to be made without obtaining signature of addressee or addressee's agent, if delivery employee judges that article can be left in secure location) and I authorize that delivery employee's signature constitutes valid proof of delivery.		
NO DELIVERY <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ (Customer's Signature)		

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<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign priority already claimed		
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation	<input type="checkbox"/> CIP	<input type="checkbox"/> Divisional CPA <input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification: 45 Pages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawings: 36 Sheets	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Office Action Dated:	<input type="checkbox"/> Final Rejection	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Utility Transmittal and postcard		
<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> Cert. of Timely Mailing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exp. Mail: EV 414834354 US

IDENTIFICATION OF APPLICATION

Serial No.: Unknown	22859 U.S. PTO
Title: Devices for Holding Paper, Cards, and Wallets	10/813640
Applicant: Chip E. Thomson et al.	033004
Client: Blue Chip Promotions, L.L.C.	Attorney: MTG
Mailed: 3/29/04	File No.: THMC:015US
Filed:	Date:



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